

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL	
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

<b>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*</b> <u>PETERS JAMES C</u> _____ (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>8333 CENTRAL AVE</u> _____ (Street) <u>NEWARK CA 94560</u> _____ (City) (State) (Zip)	<b>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</b> <u>ROSS STORES INC [ ROST ]</u>	<b>5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</b> (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <p style="text-align: center;"><b>President COO</b></p>
	<b>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)</b> <u>10/13/2003</u>	
<b>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)</b>		

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
common stock	10/13/2003		M		50,000	A	\$16.8438	330,685	D	
common stock	10/13/2003		S		50,000	D	\$52.3213	280,685	D	

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Non-Qualified stock option	\$16.8438	10/13/2003		M		50,000	(1)	08/14/2010	common stock	50,000	\$0	450,000	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. Option becomes exercisable at the rate of 6/120 six months after grant, then 1/120 per month for balance of the first year, 2/120 per month for the second year, 3/120 per month for the third year and 4/120 for the fourth year.

James C. Peters President                      10/13/2003  
Chief Operating Officer

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person      Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.**