FORM 3

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104

Estimated average burden
hours per response: 0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

| DOTH ADTHUD M | Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ROSS STORES INC [ROST] | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | 12/13/2004 | | Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | |
| 4440 ROSEWOOD DR. | | | Director Officer (give title below) | 10% Owner Other (specify below) SE CONTROL | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | |
| (Street) PLEASANTON CA 94588 | | | SR VP MERCHANDISI | | | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | | | | | |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | | | Amount of Securities eneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 4) 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) | | |
| COMMON STOCK | | | 23,908 | D | | | | |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Ins | | 4. Conversion | Form: | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) | |
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | Exercise Price of Derivative Security | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | | |
| NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION | (1) | 03/21/2012 | COMMON STOCK | 3,104 | 18.89 | D | | |
| NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION | (1) | 03/20/2013 | COMMON STOCK | 2,958 | 19.02 | D | | |
| NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION | (1) | 01/21/2014 | COMMON STOCK | 14,055 | 28.46 | D | | |
| NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION | (1) | 03/17/2014 | COMMON STOCK | 1,962 | 29.42 | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. OPTION IS EXERCISABLE AS IT VESTS IN MONTHLY INCREMENTS BEGINNING THE FIRST FULL MONTH FROM DATE OF GRANT WITH A VESTED RATIO OF 1/72 FOR THE FIRST YEAR, 2/72 FOR THE SECOND YEAR AND 3/72 FOR THE THIRD YEAR.

<u>Arthur M. Roth</u> <u>12/13/2004</u>

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

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.

^{*} If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (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).