

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>BALMUTH MICHAEL</b>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <b>4440 ROSEWOOD DR.</b>  (Street) <b>PLEASANTON CA 94588</b>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>ROSS STORES INC [ ROST ]</b>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <b>Vice Chairman, Pres. &amp; CEO</b>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>03/17/2005</b>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

**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	03/17/2005		A		279,623 <sup>(1)</sup>	A	\$0.00	683,265	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)	
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$28.61	03/17/2005		A	559,246		(2)	03/17/2015	Common Stock	559,246	\$0.00	559,246	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Shares become vested as follows: 40% vest as of October 15, 2007 and 60% vest as of October 15, 2008.
- 2. Shares become vested as follows: 40% vest monthly in year ending March 17, 2008 and 60% vest monthly in year ending March 17, 2009.

Mark Askanas, Attorney in Fact 03/21/2005

\*\* 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.

ROSS STORES, INC.  
POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby authorizes Mark Askanas, General Counsel, and John Call, Chief Financial Officer, and their designees, Mary Tanner, Vice President of Human Resources, and Chuck Kurth, Vice President of Finance and Treasurer, of Ross Stores, Inc. (the "Company"), to execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer or director of the Company, Forms 4 and 5, and any amendments thereto, and cause such form(s) to be filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Act of 1934, relating to the undersigned's beneficial ownership of securities in the Company. The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this power of attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 4 and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of, and transactions in, securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has cause this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 4 day of September, 2002.

/S/ MICHAEL BALMUTH  
SIGNATURE, MICHAEL BALMUTH

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