

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC
Form SC 13G
February 17, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

(Rule 13d-102)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT
TO RULES 13d-1(b), (c) AND (d) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED
PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-2(b)

(Amendment No. ____)*

TOUCH AMERICA HOLDINGS INC.

(Name of Issuer)

6.875% Series Preferred Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

891539207

(CUSIP Number)

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December 21, 1998**

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Act) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes.)

** The shares of Touch America Holdings Inc. reported as owned by this Schedule 13G are directly owned by a subsidiary of General Re Corporation, which was acquired by Berkshire Hathaway Inc. on December 21, 1998. Inadvertently, these shares, which were acquired by a subsidiary of General Re Corporation on October 26, 1993, were never included on a Schedule 13G by General Re Corporation, nor were they reported by Berkshire Hathaway Inc. upon its acquisition of General Re Corporation.

CUSIP No. 891539207

13G

Page 2 of 8 Pages

1. Names of Reporting Person.

I.R.S. Identification No. of above person

Warren E. Buffett

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group*

(a) x

(b) "

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization

United States Citizen

5. Sole Voting Power

NUMBER OF

NONE

SHARES

6. Shared Voting Power

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

40,000

EACH

7. Sole Dispositive Power

REPORTING

PERSON

NONE

WITH

8. Shared Dispositive Power

40,000

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9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

40,000

10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares*

Not Applicable.

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)

11.1%

12. Type of Reporting Person*

IN, HC

CUSIP No. 891539207

13G

Page 3 of 8 Pages

1. Name of Reporting Person

I.R.S. Identification No. of above person

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group*

(a) x

(b) "

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization

State of Delaware

5. Sole Voting Power

NUMBER OF

NONE

SHARES

6. Shared Voting Power

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

40,000

EACH

7. Sole Dispositive Power

REPORTING

PERSON

NONE

WITH

8. Shared Dispositive Power

40,000

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9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

40,000

10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares*

Not Applicable.

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)

11.1%

12. Type of Reporting Person*

HC, CO

CUSIP No. 891539207

13G

Page 4 of 8 Pages

1. Name of Reporting Person

I.R.S. Identification No. of above person

General Re Corporation

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group*

(a) x

(b) "

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization

State of Delaware

5. Sole Voting Power

NUMBER OF

NONE

SHARES

6. Shared Voting Power

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

40,000

EACH

7. Sole Dispositive Power

REPORTING

PERSON

NONE

WITH

8. Shared Dispositive Power

40,000

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9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

40,000

10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares*

Not Applicable.

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)

11.1%

12. Type of Reporting Person*

HC, CO

CUSIP No. 891539207

13G

Page 5 of 8 Pages

1. Name of Reporting Person

I.R.S. Identification No. of above person

General Reinsurance Corporation

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group*

(a) x

(b) "

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization

State of Delaware

5. Sole Voting Power

NUMBER OF

NONE

SHARES

6. Shared Voting Power

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

40,000

EACH

7. Sole Dispositive Power

REPORTING

PERSON

NONE

WITH

8. Shared Dispositive Power

40,000

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9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

40,000

10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares*

Not Applicable.

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)

11.1%

12. Type of Reporting Person*

IC, CO

SCHEDULE 13G

- Item 1.** (a) Name of Issuer
TOUCH AMERICA HOLDINGS INC.
- (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices
130 North Main Street, Butte, Montana 59701

Item 2. (a) Name of Person Filing:

Item 2. (b) Address of Principal Business Office:

Item 2. (c) Citizenship:

Warren E. Buffett
1440 Kiewit Plaza
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
United States Citizen

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.
1440 Kiewit Plaza
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
Delaware corporation

General Re Corporation
695 East Main Street
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
Delaware corporation

General Reinsurance Corporation
695 East Main Street
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
Delaware corporation

- (d) Title of Class of Securities
6.875% Series Preferred Stock
- (e) CUSIP Number
891539207

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

Warren E. Buffett (an individual who may be deemed to control Berkshire Hathaway Inc.), Berkshire Hathaway Inc., and General Re Corporation are each a Parent Holding Company or Control Person, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G) (Note: See Item 7). General Reinsurance Corporation is an Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act. The Reporting Persons together are a Group in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

Item 4. Ownership

If the percent of the class owned, as of December 31 of the year covered by the statement, or as of the last day of any month described in Rule 13d-1(b)(2), if applicable, exceeds five percent, provide the following information as of that date and identify those shares which there is a right to acquire.

- (a) Amount beneficially Owned
See the Cover Pages for each of the Reporting Persons.

- (b) Percent of Class
See the Cover Pages for each of the Reporting Persons.
- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
 - (i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote
 - (ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote
 - (iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of
 - (iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition ofSee the Cover Pages for each of the Reporting Persons.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not Applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Not Applicable.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person.

See Exhibit A.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

See Exhibit A.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 13, 2004

By: /s/ Warren E. Buffett

Warren E. Buffett

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

Dated: February 13, 2004

By: /s/ Warren E. Buffett

By: Warren E. Buffett

Title: Chairman of the Board

General Re Corporation

Dated: February 13, 2004

By: /s/ William Gasdaska

By: William Gasdaska

Title: Senior Vice President and CFO

General Reinsurance Corporation

Dated: February 13, 2004

By: /s/ William Gasdaska

By: William Gasdaska

Title: Senior Vice President and CFO

SCHEDULE 13G

EXHIBIT A

RELEVANT SUBSIDIARIES AND MEMBERS OF FILING GROUP

PARENT HOLDING COMPANIES OR CONTROL PERSONS:

Warren E. Buffett (an individual who may be deemed to control Berkshire Hathaway Inc.)

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

General Re Corporation

INSURANCE COMPANIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(a)(19) OF THE ACT:

General Reinsurance Corporation

SCHEDULE 13G

EXHIBIT B

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(k)(1)

The undersigned persons agree and consent to the joint filing on their behalf of this Schedule 13G in connection with their beneficial ownership of 6.875% Series Preferred Stock of Touch America Holdings Inc.

Dated: February 13, 2004

/s/ Warren E. Buffett

Warren E. Buffett

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

Dated: February 13, 2004

/s/ Warren E. Buffett

By: Warren E. Buffett

Title: Chairman of the Board

General Re Corporation

Dated: February 13, 2004

/s/ William Gasdaska

By: William Gasdaska

Title: Senior Vice President and CFO

General Reinsurance Corporation

Dated: February 13, 2004

/s/ William Gasdaska

By: William Gasdaska

Title: Senior Vice President and CFO