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MARKEL CORP
Form 13F-NT
February 10, 2006

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 13F

Form 13F COVER PAGE

Report for the Calendar Year or Quarter: December 31, 2005

Check here if Amendment []; Amendment Number: _____
This Amendment (Check only one.): [] is a restatement.
[] adds new holdings entries.

Institutional Investment Manager Filing this Report:

Name: Markel Corporation
Address: 4521 Highwoods Pkwy
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Form 13F File Number: 28-6647

The institutional investment manager filing this report and the person by whom it is signed hereby represent that the person signing the report is authorized to submit it, that all information contained herein is true, correct and complete, and that it is understood that all required items, statements, schedules, lists, and tables, are considered integral parts of this form.

Person Signing this Report on Behalf of Reporting Manager:

Name: Thomas S. Gayner
Title: Chief Investment Officer
Phone: 804-527-3806

Signature, Place, and Date of Signing:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------|
| Thomas S. Gayner | Richmond, VA | 2/10/06 |
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| [Signature] | [City, State] | [Date] |

Report Type (Check only one.):

- 13F HOLDINGS REPORT. (Check here if all holdings of this reporting manager are reported in this report.)
- 13F NOTICE. (Check here if no holdings reported are in this report, and all holdings are reported by other reporting manager(s).)
- 13F COMBINATION REPORT. (Check here if a portion of the holdings for this reporting manager are reported in this report and a portion are reported by other reporting manager(s).)

List of Other Managers Reporting for this Manager:

| Form 13F File Number | Name |
|----------------------|--|
| ----- | ---- |
| 28-6056 | Markel Gayner Asset Management Corporation |