

AMERUS GROUP CO/IA

Form 4

August 09, 2005

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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 OF
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
MCPHAIL GARY R

(Last) (First) (Middle)

699 WALNUT STREET, SUITE
2000

(Street)

DES MOINES, IA 50309

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
AMERUS GROUP CO/IA [AMH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
08/05/2005

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)

Pres&CEO AmerUs Life/ILICO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

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	08/05/2005	08/05/2005	M		35,000	A \$ 27.875	55,943 D
Common Stock	08/05/2005	08/05/2005	F		5,157	D \$ 50.06	50,786 D
Common Stock	08/05/2005	08/05/2005	S		1,900	D \$ 50.4	48,886 D
Common Stock	08/08/2005	08/08/2005	S		6,243	D \$ 50.2822	42,643 D
Common Stock							797.4121 I 401 (k) Plan

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

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(9-02)

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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 27.875	08/05/2005	08/05/2005	M	35,000	<u>(1)</u> 07/28/2007	Common Stock	35,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
MCPHAIL GARY R 699 WALNUT STREET SUITE 2000 DES MOINES, IA 50309	Pres&CEO AmerUs Life/ILICO

Signatures

/s/ Jeananne M. Celander, attoreny-in-fact for Mr.
McPhail 08/09/2005

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* 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).

(1) Grant of option exempt under Rule 16b-3. The option became exercisable in three annual installments beginning on July 28, 1998.

(2) Price not applicable.

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

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