

KARFUNKEL MICHAEL
 Form 5
 February 17, 2009

FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL

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 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 KARFUNKEL MICHAEL

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O AMTRUST FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., 59 MAIDEN LANE

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10038

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Amtrust Financial Services, Inc. [AFSI]

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
 12/31/2008

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Common Stock | | | | (A) or (D) Amount Price | 9,033,000 | D | |
| Common Stock | 08/01/2008 | | G | 3,992,857 (1) D \$ 0 0 | | I | See Footnote (2) |
| Common Stock | 08/01/2008 | | G | 3,992,857 A \$ 0 5,812,500 | | I | See Footnote |

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) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. of D |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------|
| | | | | | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| KARFUNKEL MICHAEL C/O AMTRUST FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. 59 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK, NY 10038 | Â X | Â X | Â | Â |

Signatures

/s/ Michael Karfunkel 02/17/2009

**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) Charitable contribution of 3,992,857 shares of Common Stock to Hod Foundation.
These shares were owned by New Gulf Holdings, Inc. ("NGH"), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Gulf USA Corporation ("Gulf").
- (2) The Reporting Person owns 50.0% of Gulf. With respect to the shares owned by NGH, the Reporting Person shares voting and investment power with George Karfunkel.
Shares held by Hod Foundation, a charitable foundation controlled by the Reporting Person, which owns 5,812,500 shares of common
- (3) stock. The Reporting Person does not have a beneficial interest in the shares owned by Hod Foundation and, therefore, disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares of common stock.

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