

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Staudé Michael L. (Last) (First) (Middle) 39 EAST CANAL STREET (Street) NELSONVILLE, OH 45764 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 01/12/2017	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ROCKY BRANDS, INC. [RCKY]	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) SVP-Finance & Interim CFO	
		5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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 control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Restricted Stock Unit	(1)	01/02/2018	Common Stock, without par value	750	\$ (2)	D	
Restricted Stock Unit	(1)	01/02/2019	Common Stock, without par value	1,000	\$ (2)	D	
Restricted Stock Unit	(1)	01/04/2020	Common Stock, without par value	1,000	\$ (2)	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	(3)	01/03/2027	Common Stock, without par value	1,000	\$ 11.55	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	(3)	01/04/2026	Common Stock, without par value	1,000	\$ 11.56	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	(3)	01/02/2025	Common Stock, without par value	1,000	\$ 13.42	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	(3)	01/02/2024	Common Stock, without par value	750	\$ 14.57	D	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other

Stade Michael L. 39 EAST CANAL STREET NELSONVILLE, OH 45764			SVP-Finance & Interim CFO	
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Signatures

Erin F. Siegfried, Attorney-in-Fact		01/23/2017
<small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>		<small>Date</small>

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Restricted stock unit vests 25% per year beginning on the first anniversary of the date of grant.
- (2) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Issuer's Common Stock.
- (3) Option vests 20% per year beginning on the first anniversary of the date of grant.

Remarks:

EXHIBIT INDEX
Exhibit 24 - Power of Attorney

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

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

EXHIBIT 24
POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Curtis A. Loveland and Erin F. Siegfried, signing singly, as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

(1) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer of Rocky Brands, Inc. (the "Company"), a Form ID, Forms 3, 4, and 5 and any other documents necessary to facilitate the filing of reports in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder;

(2) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form ID, 3, 4, or 5, complete and execute any amendment or amendments thereto, and timely file such form with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any stock exchange or similar authority; and

(3) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-fact's discretion.

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 3, 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 caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 13th day of January, 2017.

/s/ Michael L. Staude

Signature

Printed Name: Michael L. Staude