

SALEM COMMUNICATIONS CORP /DE/  
 Form 4  
 May 20, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 EPPERSON STUART W

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 SALEM COMMUNICATIONS CORP /DE/ [SALM]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 3780 WILL SCARLET RD  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 05/18/2005

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 Chairman of the Board

WINSTON SALEM, NC 27104  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount                            | (D) | Price |

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

**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.**

SEC 1474  
 (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 | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|

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| (Instr. 3)                   | Price of Derivative Security | (Month/Day/Year)          | (Instr. 8) | Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | Code | V | (A)    | (D) | Date Exercisable          | Expiration Date           | Title                | Amount or Number of Shares |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|--|------|---|--------|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Stock Option (right to buy)  | \$ 22.7                      | 05/18/2005 <sup>(1)</sup> |            |  | A    |   | 13,838 |     | 05/18/2005                | 05/18/2005                | Class A Common Stock | 13,838                     |
| Stock Options (right to buy) | \$ 16.75                     | 05/18/2005                |            |  | A    |   | 25,000 |     | 05/18/2006 <sup>(2)</sup> | 05/18/2014 <sup>(3)</sup> | Class A Common Stock | 25,000                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                       | Relationships |           |                       |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer               | Other |
| EPPERSON STUART W<br>3780 WILL SCARLET RD<br>WINSTON SALEM, NC 27104 | X             | X         | Chairman of the Board |       |

## Signatures

Jonathan L. Block, Attorney-in-fact for Stuart W. Epperson pursuant to a continuing power of attorney 05/20/2005

\_\_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).
- The option grant was approved by a committee of Salem Communications Corporation's ("Salem") board of directors on March 9, 2005,
- (1) subject to stockholder approval of the stock option plan under which the option was granted. Salem's stockholders approved the plan on May 18, 2005.
  - (2) The option vest in four installments, commencing on May 18, 2005.
  - (3) Each installment of the option expires on the fifth anniversary of the vesting date. The last installment to vest shall expire May 18, 2014.

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.