

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)

WINSTON SALEM, NC 27104

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

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.

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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 3780 WILL SCARLET RD 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.