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

FORM 4

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

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

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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).

(Print or Type Responses)

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

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3780 WILL SCARLET RD

(Street)

WINSTON SALEM, NC 27104

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

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

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

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			

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 Amoun Underlying Securit (Instr. 3 and 4)

(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	Amo or Num of Sh
Stock Option (right to buy)	$ 22.7	05/18/2005[(1)]	A		13,838		05/18/2005	05/18/2005	Class A Common Stock	13,8
Stock Options (right to buy)	$ 16.75	05/18/2005	A		25,000		05/18/2006[(2)]	05/18/2014[(3)]	Class A Common Stock	25,0

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).

(1) The option grant was approved by a committee of Salem Communications Corporation's ("Salem") board of directors on March 9, 2005, 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.
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