

# FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0362
Estimated average burden hours per response...	1.0

## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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

- Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
- Form 3 Holdings Reported
- Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>EPPERSON STUART W</b>			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>SALEM COMMUNICATIONS CORP /DE/ [SALM]</b>			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)			
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) <b>12/31/2003</b>			<b>Chairman of the Board</b>			
3780 WILL SCARLET RD			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)			6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(Street)									
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27104									
(City)			(State)			(Zip)			
<b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b>									
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)
				Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Class A Common Stock	12/31/2003		G(1)	8,888	D	\$ (1)	2,960,621	D (2)	
Class A Common Stock							1,227,520	I	By Children's Trusts (3)
Class A Common Stock							120,000	I	By Epperson Family 2003 Trust (4)

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 2270 (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. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					
					(A) (D)							

## 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 <small>Signature of Reporting Person</small>	02/25/2004 <small>Date</small>
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## 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) Stuart W. Epperson and Nancy A. Epperson jointly gifted 808 shares of Common Stock to a custodial account for each of their 11 grandchildren, for a total gift of 8,888 shares. Stuart W. Epperson and Nancy A. Epperson have not retained any voting or dispositive power over such gifted shares.
- (2) Stuart W. Epperson and Nancy A. Epperson, as Joint Tenants
- (3) Stuart W. Epperson as Trustee of each of the 4 Epperson Children's Trusts for all purposes other than voting matters.
- (4) Stuart W. Epperson and Nancy A. Epperson, as Trustees of the Epperson Family 2003 Trust.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.

STUART W. EPPERSON  
LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR  
SECTION 16 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby makes, constitutes and appoints each of Jonathan L. Block, Eileen E. Hill and Evan Masyr, each acting individually, as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact, with full power and authority as hereinafter described on behalf of and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned to:

(1) prepare, execute, acknowledge, deliver and file Forms 3, 4, and 5 (including any amendments thereto) with respect to the securities of Salem Communications Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, any national securities exchanges and the Company, as considered necessary or advisable under Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended from time to time (the "Exchange Act");

(2) seek or obtain, as the undersigned's representative and on the undersigned's behalf, information on transactions in the Company's securities from any third party, including brokers, employee benefit plan administrators and trustees, and the undersigned hereby authorizes any such person to release any such information to the undersigned and approves and ratifies any such release of information; and

(3) perform any and all other acts which in the discretion of such attorney-in-fact are necessary or desirable for and on behalf of the undersigned in connection with the foregoing.

The undersigned acknowledges that:

(1) this Power of Attorney authorizes, but does not require, each such attorney-in-fact to act in their discretion on information provided to such attorney-in-fact without independent verification of such information;

(2) any documents prepared and/or executed by either such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney will be in such form and will contain such information and disclosure as such attorney-in-fact, in his or her discretion, deems necessary or desirable;

(3) neither the Company nor either of such attorneys-in-fact assumes (i) any liability for the undersigned's responsibility to comply with the requirement of the Exchange Act, (ii) any liability of the undersigned for any failure to comply with such requirements, or (iii) any obligation or liability of the undersigned for profit disgorgement under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act; and

(4) this Power of Attorney does not relieve the undersigned from responsibility for compliance with the undersigned's obligations under the Exchange Act, including without limitation the reporting requirements under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

The undersigned hereby gives and grants each of the foregoing attorneys-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or appropriate to be done in and about the foregoing matters as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if present, hereby ratifying all that each such attorney-in-fact of, for and on behalf of the undersigned, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Limited Power of Attorney.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to each such attorney-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 10th day of September, 2002.

/s/ Stuart W. Epperson  
Signature

Stuart W. Epperson\_  
Print Name

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
)  
COUNTY OF VENTURA )

On this 10th day of September, 2002, Stuart Epperson personally appeared before me, and acknowledged that s/he executed the foregoing

instrument for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal.

/s/ Lucille Mongogna

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: February 12, 2004