

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 *
 ATSINGER EDWARD G III

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)
 4880 SANTA ROSA RD
 (Street)

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

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 President/CEO

CAMARILLO, CA 93012
 (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 ⁽¹⁾ | A | 41,515 | | | | | 05/18/2005 | 05/18/2010 | Class A Common Stock | 41,515 |
| Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 16.75 | 05/18/2005 | A | 50,000 | | | | | 05/18/2006 ⁽²⁾ | 05/18/2014 ⁽³⁾ | Class A Common Stock | 50,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| ATSINGER EDWARD G III 4880 SANTA ROSA RD CAMARILLO, CA 93012 | X | X | President/CEO | |

Signatures

Jonathan L. Block, Attorney-in-fact for Edward G. Atsinger III 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.

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