

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC  
 Form 4  
 March 31, 2003  
 SEC Form 4

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|--|---|--|
| <p align="center"><b>FORM 4</b></p> <p>[ ] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).</p> | <p><b>UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION</b><br/>                 Washington, D.C. 20549</p> <p><b>STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP</b></p> <p>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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940</p> | <p align="center">OMB APPROVAL</p> <hr/> <p>OMB Number: 3235-0287<br/>                 Expires: January 31, 2005<br/>                 Estimated average burden hours per response. . . . . 0.5</p> |
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|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*</p> <p><b>Salerno, Frederic V.</b></p> <hr/> <p>(Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p><b>c/o Verizon Communications</b></p> <p><b>400 Westchester Avenue, 2nd flr.</b></p> <hr/> <p>(Street)</p> <p><b>White Plains, NY 10604</b></p> <hr/> <p>(City) (State) (Zip)</p> <p><b>U.S.A.</b></p> | <p>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p><b>The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. BSC</b></p> | <p>4. Statement for (Month/Year)</p> <p><b>February 28, 2003</b></p> | <p>6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</p> <p align="center">(Check all applicable)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director _____ 10%</p> <p>Owner _____</p> <p>Officer _____</p> <p>Other _____</p> <p>Officer/Other Description _____</p> |
| <p>3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)</p>  |  | <p>5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)</p>                | <p>7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Filing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Joint/Group Filing</p>   |

| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |                                      |   |  |   |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code and Voluntary Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed (D) Of (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (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/D<br>  Price  |   |   |   |
|  |                                      |   |  |   |   |   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.  
 \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

(over)  
 SEC 1474 (3-99)

**Salerno, Frederic V. - February 2003**

**Form 4 (continued)**

| 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 | 3. Transaction Date | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable(DE) and Expiration Date(ED) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities | 8. Price of Derivative Security | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially | 10. Ownership Form of | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|  |                                    |                     |                     |                                    |   |  |                                 |   |                       |   |

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|   | Derivative Security | (Month/Day/Year) | and Voluntary (V) Code (Instr.8) | Acquired (A) or Disposed (D) Of (Instr. 3,4 and 5) | (Month/Day/Year)        | (Instr. 3 and 4)   | (Instr.5) | Owned at End of Month (Instr.4) | Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | (Instr.4) |
|---|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
|   |                     |                  |                                  |  | (DE)   (ED)             |                    |           |                                 |   |           |
| <b>Non-Employee Director Stock Options (right to buy)</b> | \$62.6400           | 02/28/2003       | A                                | (A) 299  | 08/28/2003   02/28/2013 | Common Stock - 299 |           | 299                             | D   |           |
|   |                     |                  |                                  |  |                         |                    |           |                                 |   |           |

Explanation of Responses :

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts **By: Frederic V. Salerno** constitute Federal Criminal Violations. \_\_\_\_\_  
 See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a). \*\* Signature of Reporting Person  
 Date

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient,  
 See Instruction 6 for procedure.

**Power of Attorney**

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.