

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 5  
February 11, 2005

# FORM 5

**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).  
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL 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

|   |         |          |  |  |   |  |
|---|---------|----------|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * |         |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol                  |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  |  |
| EISENHART WILLIAM L                       |         |          | STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]                          |  | (Check all applicable)  |  |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director  | <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner             |
|   |         |          | 12/31/2005   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |
| 111 N. WALL STREET                        |         |          | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)         |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting  |  |
|   |         |          |  |  | (check applicable line)   |  |
| SPOKANE, WA 99201                         |         |          |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person |  |

| 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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 02/11/2005                           | 05/28/2004   | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 300 A   | \$ 28.93   | 3,300 D  | Â   |

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)**

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| 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. Price of Underlying Security (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|

  

|     |     | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
|-----|-----|------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------------|
| (A) | (D) |                  |                 |       |                            |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| EISENHART WILLIAM L<br>111 N. WALL STREET<br>SPOKANE, WA 99201 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

E. Marie Hirsch                      02/11/2005

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*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) Adjusted to reflect shares previously recorded as IRA shares, which should have reflected as brokerage shares only. This also includes the 10% stock dividend payable on May 28, 2004.

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.