

BRUKARDT DAVID A
Form 5
February 13, 2006

FORM 5

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

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0362
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burden hours per
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
BRUKARDT DAVID A

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
STERLING FINANCIAL CORP
/WA/ [STSA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended
(Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2005

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)
Section 16 Officer

111 N. WALL STREET

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

SPOKANE, WA 99201

____X____ Form Filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form Filed by More than One Reporting
Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 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	02/13/2006	12/31/2005	J ⁽¹⁾	40 Amount (A) or (D) Price \$ 24.98	289	I	401K

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. of D S B O E I F (I
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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
(A)	(D)			

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BRUKARDT DAVID A 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Â	Â	Â Section 16 Officer	Â

Signatures

E. Marie Hirsch	02/13/2006
**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) To balance 401(k) share ownership at 12/31/2005. -- This footnote reflects the shares owned by the employee as well as the company match at 12/31/2005.

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.