

Rabinovitsj Daniel A  
 Form 3  
 July 22, 2010

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * Â Rabinovitsj Daniel A (Last) (First) (Middle)  C/O ATHEROS COMMUNICATIONS, INC., Â 5480 GREAT AMERICA PARKWAY (Street)  SANTA CLARA,, Â CA Â 95054 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 07/16/2010	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ATHEROS COMMUNICATIONS INC [ATHR]	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) Vice President & GM	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	40,000 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	Â

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security	4. Conversion or Exercise	5. Ownership Form of	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	(Instr. 4) Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Price of Derivative Security	Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	(Instr. 5)
Employee Stock Options (right to buy)	05/28/2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	05/27/2020	Common Stock	50,000	\$ 34	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Rabinovitsj Daniel A C/O ATHEROS COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 5480 GREAT AMERICA PARKWAY SANTA CLARA, CA 95054	Â	Â	Â Vice President & GM	Â

## Signatures

Bruce P. Johnson                      07/22/2010

         \*\*Signature of Reporting Person                      Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) Represents Restricted Stock Units ("RSUs") that will vest and be settled in shares of Common Stock as follows: 25% of the RSUs will vest on 5/28/2011, and the remaining RSUs will vest in 12 equal quarterly installments commencing on 8/28/2011.
  - (2) 25% of the options become exercisable on 5/28/2011, and the remaining options become exercisable in 36 equal monthly installments commencing on 6/28/2011.

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