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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC Form 424B3

August 24, 2004

THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. IncomeNotes(SM) With Maturities of Nine Months or More from Date of Issue

Registration No. 333-109793 Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) Pricing Supplement No. 38

(To Prospectus dated November 17, 2003,

and Prospectus Supplement dated November 17, 2003)

Trade Date: August 24, 2004 Issue Date: August 27, 2004

The date of this Pricing Supplement is August 24, 2004

Fixed Rate Notes

Maturity Price to Discounts & Date Public Commissions Reallo CUSIP# Interest Rate 8/27/2030 100.00% 2.50% 0.3 07387EFZ5 5.85%

Subject to Redemption

First Interest Payment Date	First Interest Payment Amount	Survivor's Option	Yes/No	Date and Terms of Redemption
2/27/2005	\$29.25	Yes	Yes	Commencing on 8/27/2009 and on the 27th of month thereafter until Maturity, the Notes called in whole at par at the option of th Company on ten calendar days notice.

The distribution of IncomeNotes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.