NEXTEL PARTNERS INC Form SC 13G/A February 13, 2003

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. 1)*

| NEXTEL PARTNERS, INC. |
|--|
| (Name of Issuer) |
| Class A Common Stock |
| (Title of Class of Securities) |
| 65333F107 |
| (CUSIP Number) |
| December 31, 2002 |
| (Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement) Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed: |
| o Rule 13d-1(b) |
| ý Rule 13d-1(c) |
| o Rule 13d-1(d) |
| *The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page. |
| The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes). |
| CUSIP No65333F107 |
| Names of Reporting Persons. I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only). |
| William H. Gates III |

| 2. | Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions) | (a) (b) | 0 0 | |
|-----|---|------------|---|----------------|
| 3. | SEC Use Only | | | - |
| 4. | Citizenship or Place of Organization | | | - |
| | State of Washington | | | _ |
| | per of Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting n With: | 5. | Sole Voting Power | - |
| | | | 12,766,106* | |
| | | 6. | Shared Voting Power -0- | - |
| | | 7. | Sole Dispositive Power | = |
| | | | 12,766,106* | |
| | | 8. | Shared Dispositive Power | • |
| | | | -0- | _ |
| 9. | Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Repo | orting l | Person | - |
| 10. | Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes | Certain | n Shares (See Instructions) o | - |
| 11. | Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 7.6% | | | • |
| 12. | Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) IN | | | - |
| * | Stock owned by Mente, L.L.C. ("Mente"). All Com | nmon S | Cascade Investment, L.L.C. ("Cascade") and 4,040,870 tock held by Cascade or Mente may be deemed to be be deemed. Michael Larson, the manager and execute | eneficially ow |

nmon ned by ach of Cascade and Mente, has voting and investment power with respect to the Common Stock held by each of Cascade and Mente. Mr. Larson disclaims any beneficial ownership of the Common Stock beneficially owned by Cascade, Mente and Mr. Gates.

| 1. | Names of Reporting Persons. I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities on | | |
|-----|---|------------|-------------------------------|
| | | ıly). | |
| | Cascade Investment, L.L.C. | | |
| 2. | Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions) | (a) (b) | 0 0 |
| 3. | SEC Use Only | | |
| 4. | Citizenship or Place of Organization | | |
| | State of Washington | | |
| | er of Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting With: | 5. | Sole Voting Power |
| | | | 8,725,236 |
| | | 6. | Shared Voting Power |
| | | | -0- |
| | | 7. | Sole Dispositive Power |
| | | | 8,725,236 |
| | | 8. | Shared Dispositive Power |
| | | | -0- |
| 9. | Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Repo | orting I | Person |
| | 8,725,236 | | |
| 10. | Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes | Certaiı | n Shares (See Instructions) o |
| 11. | Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) | | |
| | 5.2% | | |
| 12. | Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) | | |
| | СО | | |

| Item 1. | | | | |
|------------|--|--|--|--|
| (a) | (a) Name of Issuer | | | |
| | Nextel Partners, Inc. (the "Issuer") | | | |
| (b) | Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices | | | |
| | 4500 Carillon Point Kirkland, WA 98033 | | | |
| Item 2. | | | | |
| (a) | Name of Person Filing | | | |
| | Cascade Investment, L.L.C. ("Cascade") and William H. Gates III ("Gates") | | | |
| (b) | Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence | | | |
| | Cascade 2365 Carillon Point, Kirkland, Washington 98033 Gates One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052 | | | |
| (c) | Citizenship | | | |
| | Cascade is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Washington. Gates is a citizen of the United States of America. | | | |
| (d) | Title of Class of Securities | | | |
| | Class A Common Stock ("Common Stock") | | | |
| (e) | CUSIP Number | | | |
| | 65333F107 | | | |
| Item 3. If | f this Statement is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is | | | |
| N | Not Applicable. 4 | | | |
| Item 4. C |) Wnership | | | |
| (a) | Amount beneficially owned: | | | |
| | See the responses to Item 9 on the attached cover pages. | | | |
| (b) | Percent of class: | | | |
| | See the responses to Item 11 on the attached cover pages. | | | |

| (c) | (c) Number of shares as to which the person has: | |
|--|--|---|
| | (i) | Sole power to vote or to direct the vote |
| See the responses to Item 5 on the attached cover pages. | | See the responses to Item 5 on the attached cover pages. |
| | (ii) | Shared power to vote or to direct the vote |
| | | See the responses to Item 6 on the attached cover pages. |
| | (iii) | Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of |
| | | See the responses to Item 7 on the attached cover pages. |
| (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of | | Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of |
| | | See the responses to Item 8 on the attached cover pages. |
| Item 5. Ov | vnership of | Five Percent or Less of a Class |
| Not A | pplicable. | |
| Item 6. Ov | vnership of | More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person |
| Not A | pplicable. | |
| P | | n and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the ing Company |

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

Not Applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not Applicable.

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Item 10. Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

| February 12, 2003 | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Date | | | |
| CASCADE INVESTMENT, L.L.C. | | | |
| By: /s/ MICHAEL LARSON | | | |
| | Name: Michael Larson Title: Manager | | |
| WILLIAM H. GATES III | | | |
| By: | /s/ MICHAEL LARSON | | |
| | Name: Michael Larson* Title: Attorney-in-fact | | |

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

We, the signatories of the statement to which this Joint Filing Agreement is attached, hereby agree that such statement is filed, and any amendments thereto filed by either or both of us will be filed, on behalf of each of us.

| February 12, 2003 | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| | Date | |
| CASCADE INVESTMENT, L.L.C. | | |
| By: /s/ MICHAEL LARSON | | |
| • | Name: Michael Larson Title: Manager | |
| WILLIAM H. GATES III | | |
| By: | /s/ MICHAEL LARSON | |
| • | Name: Michael Larson* Title: Attorney-in-fact | |

Title: Attorney-in-fact

Duly authorized under Special Power of Attorney appointing Michael Larson attorney-in-fact, dated March 14, 2001, by and on behalf of William H. Gates III, filed as Exhibit B to Cascade's Amendment No. 1 to Schedule 13D with respect to Pan American Silver Corp. on March 19, 2001, SEC File No. 005-52919, and incorporated by reference herein.

QuickLinks

SIGNATURE
JOINT FILING AGREEMENT