

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2013, AT 10:30AM

The Forum will not meet on June 12. The Summer session begins on June 19, at 11:50AM

Market Perspective. Stocks were down for the week: DOW down 1.23%; S&P down 1.14% and NASDAQ down 0.1%. The S&P was still up for the month of May, which was its seventh straight up month and up 15 of the last 18 months. But bond yields were up again (bond prices down.) Investors in bonds - corporate bonds, junk bonds, government bonds, long duration bonds, have had several very bad weeks. As have REIT investors, leveraged funds, utility stocks and MLPs. The reason seems to be anticipation the Fed "tapering" (a new term in Fedspeak) which means that the Fed will be reducing its level of bond and mortgage purchases. Perhaps the 30 year bond bull market really is dead. Is this an important inflection point in the markets?

Risk and Volatility. Tom will talk about volatility and whether it is a true measure of risk.

Asset Allocation. Maury Cralle will deliver his third, and final talk on asset allocation, and the rationale for using an asset manager.

Fund Talk. I will look at the Powershares High Dividend ETF (SPHD) and compare it to some other high-dividend ETFs. SPHD claims to use an index that selects stocks with lower price volatility, and therefore lower risk. (See Tom's talk.) How much lower volatility does SPHD have? We will look at "beta" which a measure of an investments price volatility compared to the S&P 500.

Value Line. Value Line provides a tremendous amount of information on individual stocks, on

one page. It is a subscription service, but is accessible through the Fairfax County Library website, using a Library Card. Over an extended period, in five or ten minute segments, we will look at individual charts and information in Value Line reports, and what they mean to potential investors in a stock, or as a monitoring tool for stocks that you hold. (An advantage of focussing on one piece of the report is that we can make it big enough on the screen for Forum members to see!)

Buys and Sells

Buys

John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust (JBU), at 25% discount - Not certain this is correct. Bond fund.

Kinder Morgan Partners (KMP)
Enbridge Energy Partners (EEP)
Foot Locker (FL)
Spectra Energy (SE)

Sells

Closed-End bond funds
Cohen&Steers Infrastructure Common (UTF)

Thinking About . . .

Alerian MLP Fund (AMLP)
MLPs in general
Gold ETF (GLD)
Cree (CREE)
Apple (AAPL)

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