

Future Meeting Schedule

The Forum will meet for the Summer Schedule from June 15 to July 20 at 11:45 AM

The Week That Was: “Sell in May and Go Away.” The markets declined another 1% for the week ended 6/24, the seventh down week of the last eight. And the S&P flirted with (but did not cross) its 200 day moving average, a popular “sell” trigger. This reminds me of this time last year, when the markets corrected 14% from April through August. We are down about 7% since April so far. Heading for another difficult Summer?

Bank Stocks: This week we’re gonna do it! Tom will discuss Northern Trust (NTRS,) a bank that specializes in serving wealthy clients. I will discuss United Bankshares, Inc (UBSI) a bank holding company that owns the local United Bank, Fairfax, and which is paying a 5% dividend.

Options: Many investors consider them confusing and/or highly risky. Anne Lamar and Bill Brewster will discuss selling (writing) covered calls as a way to increase yields on stocks they own.

Searching for Yield (Fixed Income ETFs): A comparison of two fixed income ETFs with similar (fairly low) risk characteristics:

iShares Barclays Intermediate Term Credit Bond (CIU.) Yields 3.96%. Duration 4.2 years. Composed mostly of investment grade foreign and US corporate bonds. Expenses are 0.20%.

iShares Barclays Aggregate Bonds (AGG.) Yields 3.38%. Duration 4.6 years. Composed mostly of Treasury bonds (32%,) Mortgage Pass Through Certificates (27%,) and Investment Grade Corporate bonds (16%.) Expenses are 0.24%.

A Big Charts comparison of the price of CIU has been down as much as 1%, and up as much as 3%, and is currently up 2% over its price one year ago. AGG has been down as much as 3%, up as much as 2%, and is currently up 1% over its price a year ago.

Searching for Yield (Equity ETFs): A comparison of SPDR S&P Dividend ETF (SDY) and iShares Dow Jones Select Dividend Index (DVY), both of which have been frequently mentioned at Forum sessions, show that DVY has outperformed SDY over the past year. DVY is yielding 3.24%, and is up 18% over the past year, whereas SDY is yielding 3.15% and is up 13% over the past year.

Big Charts: A very useful website for comparing two or more investments.

Go to www.bigcharts.marketwatch.com

Enter a ticker symbol. (A ticker symbol look-up is available.)

Click on “Advanced Charts.”

Click on Time Frame (one year is the default.)

Click on “Compare To.”

Enter another ticker symbol or index. You can compare to several by entering ticker symbols, separated by commas.

Click on “Draw Chart.”

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