

**TOM CROOKER INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA  
FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2012, 11:45AM**

The Forum will meet 2/15 at 11:45AM, and then will meet on 2/22 at 10:00AM

**PROGRAM**

***The Week that Was.*** All of us are enjoying the ride, with the S&P up 7% so far this year, and jobs and the US economy seeming to firm up. And financials (!!!) are leading the way. If housing ever recovers or at least stabilizes . . .

***Stock of the Week: Chevron (CVX).*** Every Forum member likely owns some Big Oil, directly or through a fund. The biggest of Big Oil is Exxon Mobil (XOM) widely considered to be one of the World's best run public companies, and until it was recently surpassed by Apple (AAPL), the World's most valuable company. But Chevron is no slouch, as number 2 in Big Oil. We will look at some numbers and discuss whether CVX may be more desirable than XOM to us retired investors.

**Maximum Return and Minimum Risk (cont.)** Maury will continue with his presentation of the book.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

***Utilities.*** Chris Taylor writes "Utility Stocks go from red hot to red flag." (article on Investment Forum website) that utility stocks were hot in 2011, up 8.7% as a sector, far above the S&P's flat performance for the year, and trading at a PE of 14, also above the S&P's 12.2. Utilities normally trade at lower valuations, but have good dividends. Mr. Taylor comments, "One solution is to be highly selective in your picks, since some utilities are more richly valued than others. Despite the gathering clouds for the sector, analyst Justin McCann at S&P Capital IQ identifies prominent names like Exelon (EXC), NextEra Energy (NEEXU) and Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG) as stocks to buy."

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