

TOM CROOKER INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012, 10:00AM

The Forum will meet at 11:45AM for the Spring Session, beginning March 21, 2012

Program

DOW 13,000. The DOW closed at 13,005 on Tuesday, 2/28, but has pulled back below that level since then. Per the Forum tradition (last held in October 2007) we will celebrate with a sheet cake, provided by Ed Swoboda, at this Wednesday's session, which we will cut at the end of the session. A pre-lunch sugar high.

The Week that Was. The Tuesday, March 6 Wall Street Journal ran an article, "You Hear That? It's Quiet . . . Too Quiet." It noted that the DOW had gone 45 days without a triple-digit point drop, and volatility was at the lowest level in six months. Right on cue, the DOW dropped 204 points on that day. That's bad, right? Or was it good? Some experts were hoping for a mild, overdue pullback. One called a hoped for 3% to 5% pullback "the pause that refreshes." Then the second half of last week, the market regained almost all of the losses on Tuesday. That's good, right? Or was it bad? For those looking for a mild pullback, and hoping a few more down days after Tuesday would do the trick, that did not happen. What's an investor to think?

Stock of the Week. Ludwig Benner will discuss Terra Nitrogen Company (TNH) and do a walk through of the companies 10Q, looking for useful information. You may recall that Ludwig talked briefly about TNH last Fall. The company, not a household name, was posting some rather nice numbers then. How has the stock done since?

Maximum Return, Minimum Risk Maury will do his fourth and final installment on the book, and a look at a portfolio strategy called 7Twelve.

Looking For . . .

A Forum member familiar with the recent changes in the tax law on calculating cost basis for sales of stocks, effective in 2011, but which will also apply to funds in 2012. And who is will to give a short tutorial at a Forum session.

A Forum member willing to discuss investment in foreign stocks and bonds, and U. S. Real Estate Investment Trusts.

Recent Forum Website Postings

"E, Not PE" Profitability is at historic high levels, but not share prices.

Thanks, Sy. I tip my hat to Sy Sherman, who stepped up to give his presentation on short notice after the entire agenda unravelled in the two days before the session.

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