

TOM CROOKER INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR JUNE 20, 2012

The Summer session will begin June 20 at **11:45AM**

Welcome to the Investment Forum! We have 68 people registered for the Summer session. Most of you have been attending the Forum for many years, but some of you are new. An agenda is sent out each week to all Forum members via e-mail. Agenda's include topics that will be discussed, and market tidbits of interest. The agenda is usually prepared on Sunday, and is distributed on Monday. I write the agenda and it is distributed by Jim Miller, jemiller49@comcast.net. If you are not on the distribution list, please advise Jim. For new members, please see ***Forum Resources*** below.

The (2 Weeks) that (Were.) The last agenda that I wrote (as of 6/1/2012) lamented that the S&P was down 3% for the week, erasing its YTD gains, and the next week looked grim. The problems in Europe and the weak US jobs numbers had not gotten better. So what happened? The S&P was up 5% the past two weeks.

Why the rally? Europe and Greece are still a mess. (I have said some version of "Europe and Greece are a mess" for years. Perhaps I should quit talking about that. Just assume Europe and Greece are the main reasons behind whatever the market does.) But, the bad news in Europe and weak US and China numbers, may prod the central banks (including our Fed) to provide stimulus, via QE3 or Operation Twist or whatever. And that may boost the stock market. So the bad news (Europe and weak US jobs) is good because it will prod action by the Fed? Somebody needs to 'splain that to me, real slow.

As of today (Sunday) the Greeks have voted in the pro-Euro party, so it looks like Greece will not be booted out of the EU, at least not yet.

The 10-year T closed on Friday at 1.59%. Up from 1.46% on 6/1. The most recent auction of 10-year Treasuries yielded 1.622%, the lowest yield since Alexander Hamilton was Secretary of Treasury.

Ludwig Benner on Energy Costs. Ludwig will look at the cost of energy and what this portends for investors.

Playing in the Sandbox. Many investors have a "sandbox." That is a small allocation of their investment portfolio that they buy investments that do not fit within their investment objectives or investment expertise. They may be higher risk, or use exotic strategies, or have some crazy metrics. Or based on a hunch or maybe a clever ticker symbol or something you heard at the Investment Forum or something Jim Cramer said. I will discuss a "sandbox investment." A stock in a sector I know from personal experience, which happens to have a great ticker symbol (to me.) Then I will look at it from more normal investment criteria.

Quote of the Week. "If you are not at the table, you are on the menu." This quote came from Marilyn Cohen, who gave an AAI presentation on 6/16/2012, "The Best Income Plays in a Low Yield World." Time permitting I will share some of her comments, which were excellent and well worth the \$28 price of admission (including breakfast) on a Saturday morning. Her presentation will be posted on the Forum website.

Forum Resources

Investment Forum Website. The Forum has its own website, www.oli.gmu.edu/~finforum/. The current agenda (and previous agendas) are posted, along with current articles of interest or recommended by Forum members. Members are invited to forward articles to the Forum webmaster, Paul Howard at phoward@gmu.edu.

Morningstar Dividend Investor. This newsletter comes out monthly, has model portfolios of dividend paying stocks and extensive current analyses of the dividend and price performance of those and other popular dividend-paying equities. I will advise how you can receive this newsletter.

Forum Member disclosed Buys and Sells, week of 6/6/2012

Buys

Dreyfus High Yield Strategies (DHF)
Xerox Corp. (XRX)
MarkWest Energy Partners LP (MWE)
Wells Fargo Corp. (WFC)
Huntsman Corp (HUN)
Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KMI)
Chesapeake Energy (CHK)
American Electric Power (AEP)

Sells

Central Fund of Canada (CEF)
Acura Pharmaceuticals (ACUR)

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