

**TOM CROOKER INVESTMENT FORUM
FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2012 AT 10:30AM**

The Forum will meet at 10:30AM through September 12.

The Week that Was. The market broke its six week winning streak, down 0.9% for the DOW, down 0.5% for the S&P, and down 0.2% for the NASDAQ. The market seemed to react (hourly) to speculation whether or not the Fed would initiate stimulus (QE3) after its meeting in Jackson Hole this week. And also utterances by Ms. Merkel and what the Germans wanted to do.

The week's Barron's had a bullish article on gold. And Jacqueline Doherty (anybody know her track record?) is bearish on high dividend-paying sectors, saying that utilities and telecom are overvalued.

Gloria on technical indicators. Gloria Loew will give up updates on what the charts and moving averages are saying about the market.

Panel Discussion on Seeking Alpha. Seeking Alpha is a popular website (www.seekingalpha.com) among individual investors, and many Forum members. It is highly customizable, and forwards recent articles on stocks, investments, or strategies that you select, 24/7. A panel will discuss Seeking Alpha, and possibly other newsletters and web-based sources of market information. Everybody, of course is welcome to participate in the discussion.

Update on PFXF. During last week's discussion of preferred stocks, a question was asked about the yield on the Market Vectors Preferred Securities Ex Financials ETF (PFXF) that, unlike other preferred stock funds, excludes financials from its portfolio. This ETF launched on 7/17/2012. It has grown to \$41 million (which is excellent growth for five weeks,) but it has not yet paid a dividend. This is a dilemma with all newly created funds. Yields are usually understated for about six months as the fund grows from zero. Early investors do not know how the fund will perform: whether it will achieve sufficient size to be viable, or what its yield and price performance will be.

Update on BulletShares ETFs. In 2011, Guggenheim (then Claymore) launched a series of corporate bond ETFs, that had fixed maturity dates: all the bonds in the funds matured yearly in 2012 to 2020, at which time the fund for that year liquidates. There are both investment grade and high yield funds. In theory, these ETFs have the advantage of diversification that funds offer, but also a definite maturity date, like individual bonds, and could be used to build bond ladders. (Recall Michael Flicker's presentation a few weeks ago.) We discussed this family of funds when they were launched, but did not know the performance. I will show a schedule of the various maturities, market caps, and yields.

Buys and Sells.

Buys

June 22 2013 SPY (S&P 500) Puts @ \$120
Vanguard Intermediate Term Bond Index Fund (VBIIX)
Omnivision Technologies (OVTI) - linked to Apple I Phone 5

Sandbridge Energy (SD)
Phillips 66 (PSX)
Sirius XM (SIRI)
Tangoe, Inc. (TNGO)
Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KMP)
Plains All American Pipeline (PAA)
Metropolitan Energy Corp (MOE)
Warner Chilcott (WCRX) - Special \$4.00 dividend in September
Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) - Special \$6.50 dividend in September
Oakmark International Fund (OAKIX) - Cheap price, long term hold
Guggenheim Bullet Shares 2014 High Yield Corporate Bond ETF (BSJE) - 5% yield, 2 year duration.
October 20 2012 covered call Microsoft (MSFT) @ \$33

Sells

AT&T (T) and Procter & Gamble (PG) - Faded blue chips with modest prospects priced to sell
John Hancock Bank and Thrift Opportunity CEF (BTO)
WalMart (WM)
Kraft (KFT)
Alcoa (AA)
Advanced Micro Devices (AMD)
Research In Motion (RIMM)
Annaly Mortgage (NLY) - Partial sale. Reduce risk while away for awhile.
Arrow Long-Short Fund - Poor performance
SPDR Dividend ETF (SDY) - Partial sale

What an interesting list! We must find a way to discuss these buy/sell decisions.

Al Smuzynski
asmuzynski@verizon.net