

**INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014, 11:50AM,
TA-1**

The Forum will meet at 11:50AM through November 12

Market Perspective. Another bad week, with markets down four days, before rebounding on Friday, after a positive job's report and unemployment declining to 5.9%. For the week, the DOW was down 0.60%; the S&P down 0.75%; and the NASDAQ down 0.81%. Commodity prices , including oil and gold, continue to slide. And the dollar continues to rise, for better and worse.

Unmanned Vehicle Subsystem Opportunities. The marketplace for unmanned vehicles has expanded during the last year. An Analysis was conducted of corporations that provide subsystems or major components for such systems. Hank Wolf will look at three corporations that he believes are worthy of investors' attention. The companies are FLIR Systems (FLIR,) EnerSys (ENS,) and iRobot Corp (IRBT.)

The Case for Managed Funds (continued.) This week's "Barron's" had several articles related to our lively discussion last Wednesday on managed funds. The cover of "Barron's" had the following statement.

"Active management is falling out of favor, but these two acclaimed stock-pickers are about to celebrate 25 years of success. Are they Fidelity's future, or just its glorious past?"

The "Barrons's" article then featured two long-time fund managers at Fidelity, Will Danoff who manages the Fidelity Contrafund (FCNTX,) and Joel Tillinghast, who manages the Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund (FLPSX.) According to the article, both of these funds have beaten the S&P by a significant margin since 1989. However, the Contrafund has been sold by several Forum members in recent months. Do Forum members know something about the fund that "Barron's" doesn't? Lets take a look at these two funds.

Upcoming Agenda Topics. On October 15, Corky Rainey will talk about a "dynamic" alternative to the 4% rule for drawing down retirement savings. On October 22, Sy Sherman will be the Forum Moderator, and will discuss Alibaba (BABA,) and the Technology sector. On October 29, John Woods will discuss Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from retirement savings accounts.

Bond funds (which get little Forum respect) have been getting more attention in the markets lately, and even more so after Bill Gross' move. Over the next few weeks, I will talk about "unconstained" bond funds, and bond closed-end funds, some of which are yielding 8% or more.

Upcoming Panel Discussions. Between now and year-end, I will schedule panels to discuss the following topics:

- **“Evaluating Mutual Fund Performance.”** How do you tell which mutual funds are performing well, and which are not? Morningstar and other services rate funds. Are these reliable? What metrics do you use?
- **“To Convert or Not.”** This panel will discuss whether or not to convert to a Roth IRA.

These panels will have two to four participants, each of whom will give five to ten minutes of comments, followed by panel and member discussion. I will schedule the dates with the participants. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on one of the panels.

Buys and Sells (week ending 10/1/2014)

Buys

3 D printer companies. (3D Systems, DDD)
Alibaba (BABA)
SPDR Gold Shares (GLD)
Ford (F)
Bank of America (BAC)
Vangold Resources (VAN) - ? Canadian minerals. MC: \$405M
Paragon Resources (PGN) - Oil drilling rigs. MC: \$507M
Conoco Phillips (COP)

Sells

General Electric (GE)
Leggett & Platt (LEG)
Rite Aid (RAD)
Accenture PLC (ACN)
American Express (AXP)
McDermott International (MDR) - offshore drilling equipment. MC: \$1.2B
Lord Abbett Small Cap Value (LRSCX)

Thinking About . . .

EMC Corp (EMC) - network storage. MC: \$58B
Under Armour (UA)
Alibaba (BABA)
AeroVironment (AVAV) - drones. MC: \$703M
Classic collectible automobiles - !!!

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