

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2013, 10:30AM

The Forum will meet at 10:30AM on 9/4 and 9/11.

We will meet at 11:50AM starting 9/18, the beginning of the Fall session.

Market Perspective. The markets were mixed, with the DOW down 0.5%; the S&P up 0.5%, and the NASDAQ up 1.5%. Much better than the previous weeks when we did not meet, and the markets were all down over 3%.

The take-away is clear: for the sake of investors and market worldwide, the Investment Forum must meet!

Items of note last week. The NASDAQ had a "flash freeze." Trading halted for three hours on Thursday, due (presumably) to some computer programming glitch. Huh? We had the "flash crash" in May, 2010, several lesser known trading glitches (including the Facebook IPO) and now the "flash freeze." So far, ordinary investors have not been hurt. But one wonders. . .

And then, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer announced his retirement on Thursday, and MSFT shares rose 7.3% on Friday. That speaks volumes about the market's opinion of Mr. Ballmer and his leadership of Microsoft. While a hit to Mr. Ballmer's ego, one has to assume that the blow was softened by the \$769 million increase in Mr. Ballmer's personal ownership of MSFT shares the day after his announcement. (Ballmer's net worth is \$15.2 billion, most from his stake in MSFT.) Where does Microsoft go from here, after the stock being basically stagnant for a decade?

Panel Discussion. Bob Springer, Lou Coglianesi, Sy Sherman, and Maury Cralle will have a panel discussion on, "most important lessons I have learned as an investor." Ed Swoboda and I will be moderators.

The next panel will be on October 2. Panelists will be Forum members who invest in individual stocks. They will discuss "ABC's of stock investing." How they find stock purchase "candidates." How they research and evaluate potential stock purchases; what publications, services, websites, or advisors they use to evaluate a stock. Whether they usually track a stock before purchase, and if so, for how long; what performance metrics they look for. The usual size of the purchase (as a % of their portfolio.) If you invest in individual stocks and make your own decisions on what to buy, and would like to be a panel member, please advise me.

Buys and Sells.

Buys

Apple (AAPL)
Groupon (GRPN)
Cisco (CSCO)
US Steel (X)
International Business Machine (IBM)
Wendys (WEN)
Cree, Inc (CREE) - big dip on 8/18
Amazon (AMZN)
Lockheed Martin (LMT)
Under Armour (UA)
SPDR S&P Homebuilders (XHB)
Actavis (ACT) - generic drugs
Intel (INTC)
Sysco (SYY) - the food service Sysco
Lear Corp (LEA) - electronics
Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KMI)
Enbridge Energy Partners (EMP)
Enbridge Energy Management (EMQ)
Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KMP)
Kinder Morgan Management (KMR)
MarkWest Energy Partners (MWE)
Plains All-American Pipeline (PAA)
Closed-End Bond Funds
I Shares I Boxx High Yield Bond Fund (HYG)

Sells

Bank of America (BAC)
Microsoft (MSFT)
Best Buy (BYY)
Market Sectors Agribusiness ETF (MOO)
Hewlett Packard (HPQ)
Hartford Financial (HIG)
AT&T (T)
Bond funds
Washington Mutual Fund (AWSHX)

Thinking About . . .

JC Penney (JCP)
Qualcomm (QCOM)
Costco (COST)
Rogers Communication (RCI)

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