

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

\$ Internet Investing SIG \$

Tom Burt

January 15, 2026

SIG Meeting Schedule

- The Internet Investing SIG meets every month on the third Thursday morning at **9:30 AM**.
- Investing SIG Chat Line
 - *Subscribe:* SCSCCInvestingSIG+subscribe@groups.io
 - *Post:* SCSCCInvestingSIG@groups.io
- The upcoming session dates will be:

February 19, 2026
March 19, 2026
April 16, 2026
May 21, 2026
June 18, 2026
July 16, 2026

August 20, 2026
September 17, 2026
October 15, 2026
November 19, 2026
December 17, 2026
January 21, 2027

Fundamentals Review – January 14, 2026

- Dollar slightly stronger against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$60.78** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in early January and have since faded slightly.
 - Dow 30: **49,150** S&P 500: **6,927**, Nasdaq: **23,472**, Russell 2000: **2,652**, Gold: **\$4,615**, Silver: **\$91.48**, Bitcoin: **\$97,006**, EUR/USD: **\$1.165**
 - S&P PE ratio is **31.3** vs 16.20 long term mean
(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have eased slightly (bond prices have risen).
 - 1-year Treasury – about **3.50%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.14**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.80%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.16%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.49%**. ; Prime – **6.75%**
- Fed lowered FF rate by .25% to 3.63% (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 01/27/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims December US Job Unemployment was **4.4%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates for December 2025: CPI 2.7%, PPI 3.0%.
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$2.929**) at Costco, **\$3.709** at Chevron).

Fundamentals Review – December 17, 2025

- Dollar slightly weaker against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$56.81** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in late October and have since faded.
 - Dow 30: **47,886** S&P 500: **6,721**, Nasdaq: **22,693**, Russell 2000: **2,492**, Gold: **\$4,371**, Silver: **\$66.51**, Bitcoin: **\$86,165**, EUR/USD: **\$1.174**
 - S&P PE ratio is **27.9** vs 16.1 long term mean
(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have eased slightly (bond prices have risen).
 - 1-year Treasury – about **3.54%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.15**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.83%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.27%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.50%**. ; Prime – **7.0%**
- Fed lowered FF rate by .25% to 3.63% (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 01/27/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims November US Job Unemployment was **4.6%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates for November 2025: CPI 2.7%, PPI pending.
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$2.999**) at Costco, **\$3.769** at Chevron).

Fundamentals Review – November 19, 2025

- Dollar slightly weaker against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$59.41** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in late October and have since faded.
 - Dow 30: **46,138** S&P 500: **6,642**, Nasdaq: **22,564**, Russell 2000: **2,348**, Gold: **\$4,078**, Silver: **\$51.07**, Bitcoin: **\$90,391**, EUR/USD: **\$1.154**
 - S&P PE ratio is **29.8** vs 16.1 long term mean
(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have eased slightly (bond prices have risen).
 - 1-year Treasury – about **3.70%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.13**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.75%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.39%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.86%**. ; Prime – **7.0%**
- Fed lowered FF rate by .25% to 3.88% (3.75% – 4.00% range). Next meeting is 12-09-25.
- Gov't BLS Claims August US Job Unemployment was **4.3%**. (No data for Sept., Oct.)
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates for October 2025 are unavailable due to the shutdown
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$3.489**) at Costco, **\$4.269** at Chevron).

News Bits & Bytes

- **ZeroHedge : Structuring Your Estate to Avoid Financial Headaches**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/how-structure-your-estate-so-your-heirs-avoid-financial-headache>
- **Kim Komando: Credit Freeze Links – 4 Services**
 - <https://www.komando.com/news/security/the-fourth-credit-freezes-you-missed-a-security-guide-from-the-current/>
- **Armstrong Economics: 19 States Raise Minimum Wage**
 - <https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/armstrongeconomics101/economics/19-us-states-raise-minimum-wage/>
- **Yahoo Finance: 3 High-Yield Dividend ETFs**
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/3-high-yield-dividend-etfs-141004001.html>
- **eWeek: Nvidia – First Thinking Self-Driving Car**
 - <https://www.eweek.com/news/nvidia-first-thinking-self-driving-car/>
- **Yahoo Finance: Ford November EV Sales Down 61%**
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/ford-just-reported-absolute-collapse-214913440.html>
- **ZeroHedge: Owners of Inherited IRAs Face a December 31, 2025 Deadline to Start Withdrawals**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/personal-finance/owners-inherited-iras-face-dec-31-deadline-start-taking-withdrawals>
- **Yahoo Finance: Dividend Stocks to Buy Now**
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/more-rate-cuts-coming-2026-144127655.html>

Tom's Recent (and Future) Financial Moves

- ***Disclaimer: These are not recommendations! Your financial situation and market circumstances are likely different.***
- **Trades:**
 - *No moves in last 30 days.*
 - *Still looking at longer term Treasuries (yield ~4.83%)*
- **Bond yields steady. Dollar has strengthened slightly.**
Yields on preferred stock ETFs, bank CDs, money market funds are still fairly good.
Fixed income assets prices holding. May want to lock in yields.
- **Still Looking at Utilities, Uranium miners, Copper, Robotics / Automation / AI**
 - *No way to meet future power demand with renewables (wind, solar); nuclear seeing a resurgence.*
 - *Flight from high-tax northern blue states to the south will increase demand for power there.*
May see more flight from NYC if Zohran Mamdani is elected mayor.
 - *Electric vehicles and utility transmission lines require lots of copper, rare earth metals, lithium.*
- **Boomers are Getting Older – Need More Health Care**
 - *Weight loss drugs in high demand. Oral forms becoming available. Costs should come down.*

Revocable Living Trusts (1)

- <https://jeffreyburr.com/do-i-need-a-will-or-a-trust-in-nevada/>
- <https://www.cassadylawoffices.com/estate-planning/trusts-faqs/>
- **A Revocable Living Trust is a legal entity that you [and your spouse or others] create**
 - *Trust holds title to most major assets*
 - *Trust is managed by one or more trustees*
 - *Makers of the trust are commonly also the trustees, at least until they pass away*
 - *Successor trustees assume control when original trustees pass away*
 - *Revocable Living Trust terms can be changed at any time*
- **Assets held within a trust avoid probate when the makers have passed away**
 - *Probate is public record and can take months to years to settle.*
 - *A Trust is private and assets are accessible almost immediately*
 - *Revocable Living Trust is a valuable estate planning tool*
 - *Place house[s], personal property and “non-qualified” financial accounts in the trust*
 - *For tax-deferred (qualified) accounts, it’s easier to designate person(s) as beneficiaries.*
 - *Certain assets (e.g. autos) should be left out of the trust; instead, own them in joint tenancy.*

Revocable Living Trusts (2)

- **A Trust Package generally also includes other legal documents**
 - *Reciprocal powers of attorney for both financial and health decisions*
 - *Living Wills – Advanced Directives (e.g. if you don't want to be kept alive after massive trauma)*
 - *Pour-over Wills – transfer any assets of the deceased to the trust on death.*
- **Best to have a Trust prepared by a good estate planning attorney**
 - *Watch out for recent law changes*
 - *Interview / questionnaire prior to meeting*
 - *Attorney will also notarize all required document signatures*
 - *Attorney's office will deliver a full copy to you and retain a copy*
- **Make sure your heirs know where to find the trust document or give them copies.**
 - *Advisable to keep the most current electronic copy in a secure online vault. Send "read-only" links to that document to your beneficiaries and successor trustees.*
 - *Avoiding paper copies assures there's no dispute as to which copy is the most current.*

Open Discussion