

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

\$ Internet Investing SIG \$

Tom Burt

February 19, 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:

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

February 18, 2026

Fundamentals Review – February 18, 2026

- Dollar slightly stronger against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$65.23** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in early January and have since faded slightly.
 - Dow 30: **49,704** S&P 500: **6,888**, Nasdaq: **22,754** Russell 2000: **2,659**, Gold: **\$5,004**, Silver: **\$77.19**, Bitcoin: **\$66,294**, EUR/USD: **\$1.179**
 - S&P PE ratio is **28.6** 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 **3.48%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.08**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.71%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.03%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.51%**. ; Prime – **6.75%**
- At 01/27/2026 FOMC meeting, the Fed held FF rate steady at 3.63% (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 03/17/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims January 2026 US Job Unemployment was **4.3%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates YoY for January 2026: CPI +2.4%, PPI +3.0%.
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$3.239**) at Costco, **\$3.909** at Chevron).

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).*

Pearls Before Swine by Stephen Pastis 01/31/2026



News Bits & Bytes

- **ZeroHedge : Gold and Silver Takedown – No Accident**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2026-02-07/gold-silver-takedown-was-no-accident-what-comes-next-bigger>
- **Facebook: Neil Ward Video on Gold / Silver Crash of Friday, January 30th**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1629864445099060>
- **Bottom Line: Gift Tax Rules**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/taxes/gift-tax-rules-how-to-gift-money-to-family/>
- **Bottom Line: Side Effects of GLP-1 Medications**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/health/side-effects-of-ozempic-and-other-glp-1s/>
- **ZeroHedge: AI Worker Burnout**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/ai/meat-grinder-behind-burnout-and-high-turnover-rates-ai-industry>
- **ZeroHedge: Despite DOGE, Federal Government Spending Rises to \$7 Trillion per Year**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/why-firing-9-federal-workforce-didnt-move-needle>
- **Yahoo Finance: Small Cattle Herd Causes Beef Prices to Rise 15% in 2025**
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/america-vanishing-cattle-herd-drives-150002281.html>
- **ZeroHedge: California Importing 40% of its Gasoline from the Bahamas**
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/gasoline-starved-california-turning-fuel-160000840.html>

Tom's Recent (and Future) Financial Moves

- ***Disclaimer: These are not recommendations! Your financial situation and market circumstances are likely different.***
- **Trades:**
 - *Sold 500 DOW 02/17/26 @ \$32.615 – Asset reallocation*
 - *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.*

Investing in Nuclear Energy

- **Nuclear generation basics**
 - *Generate heat from nuclear fission of enriched uranium fuel rods or pellets*
 - *Heat used to boil water to make steam*
 - *Steam drives turbines that spin and generate electricity through magnetic induction*
 - *Generated electricity is carried onto the power grid and delivered to customers*
 - *Latest trend is to multiple small, modular reactors*
 - *Thorium is an alternate fuel: safer, but more difficult to refine*
- **Industry issues**
 - *Heavy State and Federal Regulation*
 - *High startup costs*
 - *Public antipathy*
 - *But ... there's a huge need for high volume, reliable, clean power*
- **I asked Google's Gemini AI for suggestions ... (Review my PDF)**
 - *Miners and Refiners (for reactor fuel)*
 - *Reactor and generator construction companies*
 - *Power generation companies*

Open Discussion