

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

\$ Internet Investing SIG \$

Tom Burt

May 21, 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:

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, 2027
March 18, 2027
April 15, 2027
May 20, 2027

Fundamentals Review – May 20, 2026

- Dollar slightly stronger against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$98.84** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes reached all-time highs late last week, faded and now have rebounded.
 - Dow 30: **50,009** S&P 500: **7,433**, Nasdaq: **26,270** Russell 2000: **2,817**, Gold: **\$4,541**, Silver: **\$75.65**, Bitcoin: **\$77,311**, EUR/USD: **\$1.163**
 - S&P PE ratio (Multpl TTM) is **31.66** vs 16.20 long term mean
(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have risen slightly (bond prices have dropped).
 - 1-year Treasury – about **3.81%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.572**; 30-year Treasury - about **5.12%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.75%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **6.00%**. ; Prime – **6.75%**
- Q1 2026 GDP growth YoY (1st revision) was **+2.0%**. GDP is **\$31.86 Trillion**.
- At its 04/28/2026 FOMC meeting, the Fed held FF rate steady at 3.63% (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 06/16/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims April 2026 US Job Unemployment was **4.3%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates YoY for April 2026: CPI +3.8%, PPI +6.0%.
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline **\$4.889** at Costco, **\$5.709** at Chevron.

Fundamentals Review – April 14, 2026

- Dollar slightly stronger against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$90.82** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in early January, faded and now have rebounded.
 - Dow 30: **48,464** S&P 500: **7,023**, Nasdaq: **24,016** Russell 2000: **2,714**, Gold: **\$4,816**, Silver: **\$79.39**, Bitcoin: **\$75,057**, EUR/USD: **\$1.181**
 - S&P PE ratio (TTM) is **29.9** vs **16.20** long term mean
(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have risen slightly (bond prices have dropped).
 - 1-year Treasury – about **3.68%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.282**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.89%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.47%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.91%**. ; Prime – **6.75%**
- Q4 2025 GDP growth QoQ (3rd revision) was **+0.5%**. GDP is **\$31.4 Trillion**.
- At its 03/17/2026 FOMC meeting, the Fed held FF rate steady at **3.63%** (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 04/28/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims March 2026 US Job Unemployment was **4.3%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates YoY for March 2026: CPI **+3.4%**, PPI **+4.0%**.
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline **\$4.579** at Costco, **\$5.309** at Chevron.

Fundamentals Review – March 18, 2026

- Dollar slightly stronger against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$97.71** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in early January and have since faded.
 - Dow 30: **46,225** S&P 500: **6,625**, Nasdaq: **22,152** Russell 2000: **2,479**, Gold: **\$4,824**, Silver: **\$75.42**, Bitcoin: **\$71,359**, EUR/USD: **\$1.146**
 - S&P PE ratio (TTM) is **26.4** vs 16.20 long term mean
(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have risen slightly (bond prices have dropped).
 - 1-year Treasury – about **3.51%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.26**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.88%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.23%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.53%**. ; Prime – **6.75%**
- At its 03/17/2026 FOMC meeting, the Fed held FF rate steady at 3.63% (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 04/28/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims February 2026 US Job Unemployment was **4.4%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates YoY for February 2026: CPI +2.4%, PPI +3.4%.
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$4.219**) at Costco, **\$4.909** at Chevron).

News Bits & Bytes

- **Google: Workplace Intelligence & New TPU Chips**
 - <https://9to5google.com/2026/04/22/google-workspace-intelligence/>
- **ZeroHedge: Waymos Invade Residential neighborhood**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/technology/50-empty-waymos-invade-upscale-tiny-atlanta-neighborhood>
- **Bottom Line: Future of Social Security**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/retirement-planning/social-security/why-are-people-worried-about-the-future-of-social-security/>
- **WorldNet Daily: CA Billionaire Tax Bait and Switch**
 - <https://www.wnd.com/2026/05/bait-switch-californias-billionaire-tax-could-reach-far/>
- **Armstrong Economics: Op-Ed on Inflation**
 - <https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/armstrongeconomics101/inflation/they-are-lying-about-inflation/>
- **Yahoo Finance: 2027 SS COLAs May Hit 4.2% Due to Rising Inflation**
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/economy/article/social-security-2027-cola-estimate-rises-thanks-to-soaring-inflation-162941090.html>
- **Bottom Line: Dr. Allen Sinai Forecast – Remainder of 2026**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/investing/economy/stock-market-and-economic-forecast-for-the-rest-of-2026from-dr-allen-sinai/>
- **ZeroHedge: Meta Axes 8000 Workers – Replaced With AI**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/technology/meta-axes-8000-workers-zuckerberg-admits-ai-watching-replacing-labor>

Tom's Recent (and Future) Financial Moves

- **Disclaimer: These are not recommendations! Your financial situation and market circumstances are likely different.**
- **Trades:**
 - Sold 200 TIP @ \$111.38 – rebalancing, freeing up cash in my Roth
 - Still looking at longer term Treasuries (30-year yield ~5.12%)
- **Bond yields up (prices down). 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.**
- **Defense contractors may do well as U.S. replenishes spent missiles, ammo, supplies.**
- **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 as Mayor Zohran Mamdani wants to lower estate tax exemption to \$750,000.
 - 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. Doctors are pushing them. Oral forms becoming available. Costs should come down.
 - High cost of assisted living, nursing home care driving trend to “aging at home”.

Lazy Retiree's Portfolio (1)

- <https://finance.yahoo.com/markets/stocks/articles/500-000-dividend-portfolio-pays-153009877.html>
- **Warren Buffet – 2013:**
 - *“Put 10% of the cash in short-term government bonds and 90% in a very low-cost S&P 500 index fund. (I suggest Vanguard's.) I believe the trust's long-term results from this policy will be superior to those attained by most investors.”*
- **Concept: Buy a Few ETFs that track broad indexes and generate dividend/interest income**
 - *Well Diversified*
 - *Mix of low (growth), medium (blended) and high yielding (income) ETFs*
 - *Mix of stock ETFs, Preferred stock ETFs, bond ETFs, MMFs*
 - *Allocate stock ETFs between broad-market ETFs and sector/specialty ETFs*
 - *Goal is an income stream higher than that of a minimum-wage job*
 - *Try to avoid duplication of holdings*

Tom's Lazy Retiree's Portfolio (2)

- **Example Portfolio with \$500,000 to Invest**
 - *8 Holdings – See my Spreadsheet*
 - *Annual Income Goal: 6% average dividend yield (\$30,000 / year)*
 - *Annual Growth Goal: 5% annual growth in asset value*
- **Concerns**
 - *Check longer term 5-year performance as well as 1-year*
 - *Some assets' high yields are due to the assets falling prices, not their performance*
 - *Be aware that high-income ETFs may be paying dividends at the expense of growth*
 - *Decisions on what ETFs to buy are still sensitive to market timing, economic forces*
 - *Interest rates are back up (bond and fixed income assets are down) in response to inflation caused by the world oil shortage*
- **Don't Tinker Too Much**
 - *Review and rebalance every 6 months to 1 year*
 - *Don't react to transient events! Generally, you're in for the long term*

Open Discussion