

LET'S NOT FORGET ABOUT EUROPE

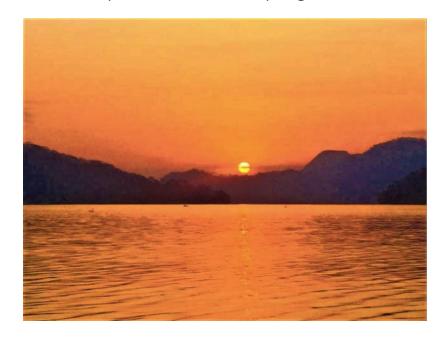
Hello, and welcome back!

"Growth" equities have topped. More on that but first.

Subscriber Harry, from his backyard in the Midwest, US.



And from El Salvador courtesy of Carsten. Absolutely magic!



THIS WEEK

- Trade war
- PDL reports
- F*kwits
- Tightening up
- Tesla: I can't help myself
- Record low for commodity equities relative to the Dow
- Don't write off Europe now that everyone has
- Tesla and the battery materials shortage
- The Hong Kong dollar peg
- NZ record low interest rates: No inflationary fears
- The phoenix is rising
- Signs you don't see at the top
- The Big Five:
 - 1. Westport Fuel
 - 2. Iofina
 - 3. Teekay
 - 4. Nel
 - 5. Hydrogenics

TRADE WAR

While everyone seems to be running around like headless chickens talking about the sky is falling, we keep calm and carry on sifting through everyone else's toxic waste for bargains... looking to profit from extreme situations and markets that everyone has left for dead in all corners of the globe.

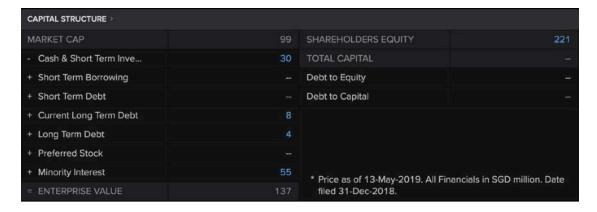
So as dramatic as these sorts of pictures are, it's worth keeping your head screwed on and spending time looking for value.



Such as:



An obscure offshore oil service stock from Singapore. Profitable (ROE 8%), lots of cash, and virtually no debt.



Sitting on a P/E of 5x, P/Book of 0.45x, and paying a dividend.

We'll keep pressing on, looking for those elusive 10-baggers... or at least stocks with a reasonable probability of achieving high payoffs with a bit of patience.

And oh, if you must... Trump hiked tariffs from 10% to 25% on \$200 billion in Chinese imports. In other words, he just raised taxes by \$30 billion per year. Big deal!

To put this in perspective consider this.

The total amount Americans paid in taxes last year - federal, state and local - was \$5.5trillion.

On Monday the market sold off to the tune of some \$700 billion. That is 20 years' worth of the new tariffs. Does that make sense to you?

If Trump were to whack 25% taxes on *all* Chinese imports, it would come to a **tax hike of** \$135 billion annually while U.S. gross domestic product last year was \$20 trillion.

I'm not saying this trade war is nothing.

I'm simply saying that it's important to differentiate between what it exactly is and what the reaction to it is. This is one reason that asymmetry all too often takes place on a change in thinking and the perception of things... not the things themselves.

Right now the trade war, looked at purely from a math perspective, amounts to a good old fashioned storm in a teacup.



What needs watching is the egos involved and the reactions.

The math is relatively inconsequential but this is about wielding power and making a show, and we all know that that can and does sometimes veer of spectacularly in directions we'd not anticipated.

PDL Reports

A great result for the world's only dedicated palladium producer.

Highlights:

- Based on 56,775 ounces of palladium sold, revenue for the quarter increased to \$128.3 million compared to \$86.6 million for the same period in 2018; the highest quarterly revenue in the Company's history.
- Net income was \$29.5 million or \$0.50 per share, compared to \$4.6 million or \$0.08 per share reported for Q1 2018.
- Cash provided from operations was \$75.8 million; free cash flow was \$46.8 million.

- Adjusted EBITDA increased to \$61.6 million up from \$28.4 million in Q1 2018.
- The Company's total cash balance on its credit facility of \$37.0 million was eliminated during the quarter.
- The Company's board of directors is pleased to announce an increase in the quarterly dividend from \$0.03 to \$0.10 per share to common shareholders of record on June 1, 2019.

It's a big turnaround for a company that went bust just a few years ago.

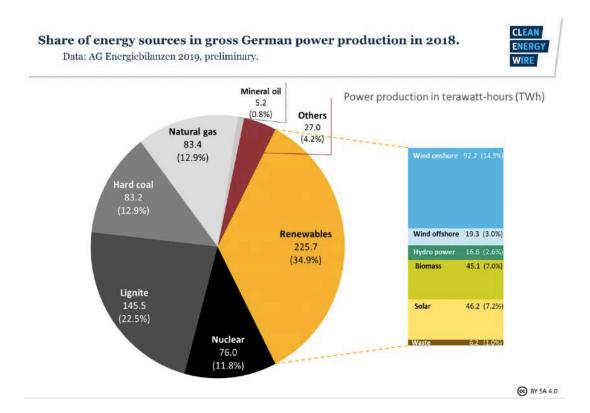
But the big question remains: What is the long-term outlook for palladium?

We don't see any change from our alert last year. Demand will continue to pickup for catalytic converters from petrol driven engines and supply will be constrained out of South Africa with all their dramas. We can't see any new significant supply coming online over the next 5 years or so. Quite the contrary!

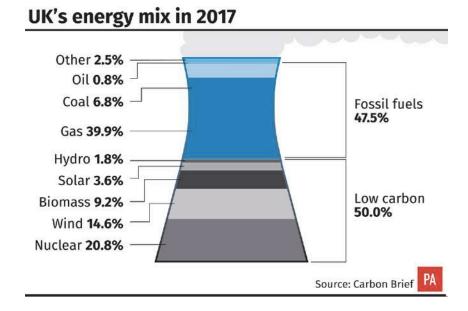
We will stay the course. A little bit frustrating to see PDL pull back by 50% or so... but the stock is now on a P/E of 5X.

F*KWICS

Not many folks know that electricity generation from "biomass" (which is mostly from burning wood chips) is actually classified as renewable fuel, at least in the eyes of the pointy shoes in Brussels.



You don't hear of the Germans generating more electricity from burning wood chips than they do from solar. And the Brits aren't much different.



The argument is that trees eat the CO2 produced by burning them so the "round-trip" exercise is carbon neutral. Plant them, grow them, cut them down, and burn them. Round trip, provided we plant some more.

Now, if this sounds terribly dim to you, that's because it is. Let's just pretend it made sense.

Well, what about the shipping and freight costs and emissions involved to move these wood chips from the US to Europe? Nope, this is so dumb it could only be a bureaucrat who could concieve of it but <u>that's exactly what's going on</u>.

The Loophole: How American forests fuel the EU's appetite for 'green' energy

By Carson Vaughan, April 29, 2019 Photography by George Steinmetz

This is "renewable energy" gone mad!

What this means in practical terms is that a significant part of Europe's "renewable" electricity production isn't scalable.

Unless the Europeans can turn the scalable part of their renewable energy production into base load (i.e. storing energy production), then all of their renewable energy production isn't scalable. It really is that simple.

Big batteries won't do it because they have raw material capacity limits. However, as we detailed in our hydrogen report, storing it in hydrogen is, in fact, completely scalable. It is

early days in that game but well worth watching. We found <u>this site</u> a great reference for developments in the hydrogen industry.

Speaking of hydrogen...



This isn't Mickey Mouse stuff. Of course, how to make money out of all this is a different story.

Rest assured we'll keep our beady eyes on this sector and keep you informed and updated.

TIGHCENING UP

If one looks at the recent price performance of stock in the offshore sector you would be forgiven for thinking that there is no light at the end of the tunnel for the industry.

Last week we discussed earnings commentary from Petroleum Geo Services, Hornbeck, and Oceaneering Int and how these companies and others are seeing a pickup in activity.

Since then Tidewater (the world's biggest operator of Offshore Service Vessels (OSVs) has reported the same "things are tightening up" message via there earnings release:

Quintin V. Kneen,	Tidewater Inc Execut	tive VP & CFO [5]

Well, relative to what I've experienced in the last several years, we're seeing much more increased tender activity, and people forecasting much further along in their investment horizons. I mean it's not just the number of FIDs that have been increased. I think that's been publicly acknowledged. But we're getting more and more commentary from our customers about what is the forward plan for vessels. And to me, that's just a really good sign that the industry as a whole is tightening up. The OSV industry is tightening up. They're coming to us much further in advance of the use and utilization of the vessels, which to me always indicates improving market as we go through the year.

One can glean a lot from company earnings reports.

We probably wouldn't take any one earnings report too seriously, but when a number of companies operating in the same industry echo essentially the same message... well, that is something to take seriously.

I Can't Help Myself

Tesla provides us this incredible situation of examining in real time the madness of crowds.

If Charles Mackay was alive today, he would have almost certainly included it in his seminal work "Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds" published in 1841.

Just a short recap of some facts would fit snugly into the pages filled with all sorts of other folly that we all laugh and scoff at.

Tesla has taken over \$20 billion in investor capital and managed to turn this into roughly \$5 billion in book value. That's an average ROE of negative 40%, and remember they've been around for 17 years and managed to lose money in every single year of existence.

Arguments abound that Tesla is on the brink of profitability, yet the numbers show completely the opposite. Things are getting much worse, not better as demand collapses and competition heats up. The show has managed to go on as Musk has lied his way through multiple capital raisings, promising ever grander and more absurd things.

The belief serum has been wearing off though, and the flock have begun slowly leaving the room.

This is a bad, really bad time for Tesla because they've just managed to sell \$1.5 billion in bonds to stave of bankruptcy. And this is where the saviour is likely the poison pill. Not because the bonds require coupon payments, which they do (payments Tesla almost certainly won't be able to make)... and not even since they're added to the monstrous debt load (\$13.5 billion at last count if I'm not mistaken).

It's because of what's going on here.

Think about it. Why would you buy these bonds? I'll tell you why. If you're a snarky capitalist bastard like myself, with a knowledge of how these games work, you arbitrage this impending disaster.

You know the company is desperate for cash on any terms, and so you buy the bonds with an expensive coupon and then you go and short the equity against your bond position delta hedging your profit.

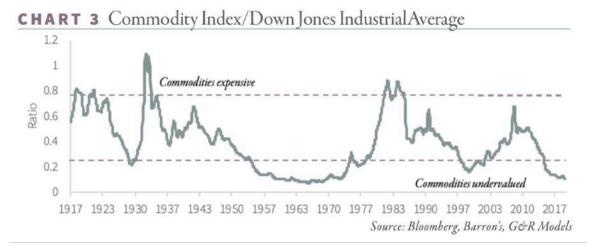
And what this means for the retail schmuck who's hanging on Elon's every word buying the stock (because "hey, look... it's cheap and Musk just said he bought \$25 million himself", which by the way, is less than he spends running his jet and thus inconsequential).

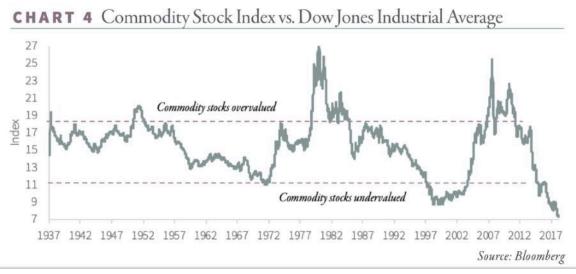
When these retail Joe Sixpacks go buy the stock they've no idea what's going down and how they're about to be taken to the cleaners by the pros.

At this point I think Tesla is a "short at will" setup. I could be wrong but that's what it looks like to me right now.

RECORD LOW FOR COMMODICIES RELACIVE CO EQUICIES

<u>Goehring & Rozencwajg's</u> latest commentary highlighted just how out of favour commodities and commodity equities are relative to the Dow.





So commodity equity stocks are even more out of favour relative to equities than they were in the late 90s and early 2000s. I certainly remember those days (and that is about 20 years ago).

Back then no one wanted to touch boring "old economy" stocks as we had entered a "new economy". I should know I was amidst the pointy shoes structuring dot-com listings in London.

Then, like now, the very best thing you could have done was flog all your "tech/dot-com" exposure and go long resources.

Having the benefit of hindsight, it's truly remarkable to us how the setup today is almost like an echo of the TMT bubble days.

What's more is that the window to making that switch for investors is rapidly closing.

As we've been mentioning in these pages there have been a number of "unicorn" listings over the last 6 months and most of these are now flopping:



Tesla, perhaps the biggest poster child for the dreamer/cult stocks, is now crumbling (down about 30% since the start of the year).

And the much anticipated Uber listing broke pricing and we think has got a lot more downside left it. After all, it is <u>iust another taxi company</u> valued as if it is going to achieve ROEs up there with the best IT companies.

Here is a bit of "trivia" for you. At their very best, the market cap of Uber and Lyft combined was approx \$100 billion. The market cap of all listed shipping stocks (liners, dry bulkers,

crude carriers, LNG carriers etc) comes to about \$125 billion. I think even a 5-year old could tell you that something was (and still is) not "quite" right.

And to top it all off, let us not forget that mega trend: Value has underperformed growth for over 12 years now, a record period of underperformance. **We reckon that 2019 will be the year that value bottomed vs growth** and perhaps the flop of Uber will mark the bottom.



Perhaps the discussion above gives you an appreciation as to why we keep banging on about value, commodity, and cyclical stocks.

One day "value" stocks will be all the rage and few will give "growth" a second thought... and we will probably be loading up on "growth" stocks, although that is probably a few years off!

NOC CO FORGEC EUROPE

Who would ever bother to look for value in Europe?

Now, before we get into this, let me make it clear. Europe has some major problems. We're not naive to them. On the contrary, we've pointed them out to you.

Take a look at what it looks like today.

Markets

Hated, Dumped, Forgotten: European Stocks Risk Irrelevance

By <u>Justina Lee</u>

8 May 2019, 14:00 GMT+10 *Updated on 8 May 2019, 17:39 GMT+10*

The European stock market is quickly becoming a backwater... if it isn't already!

Not adjusted for dividends (gross), the European stock market is below where it was 20 years ago.

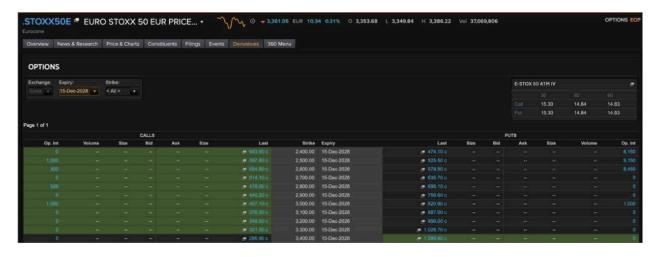


Euro Stoxx 50 and S&P 500 indexed to 100 as of 1999 (in EUR)

Now, consider this. Not all these companies are bad. Many are amazing.

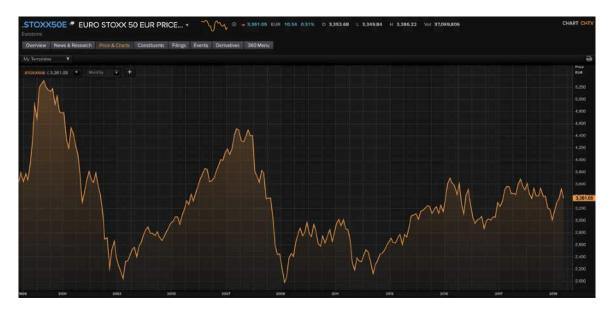
Here's where it gets interesting. Let's not forget the existence of those ultra long-term options. We can buy an ATM call on the Euro Stoxx 50 for about 10% premium.

In practical terms if you buy the 3,300 strike December 2028 strike, it will cost you 321 or \in 3,210. So if the Euro Stoxx 50 got to 3,621 (about an 8% move), then it would equate to you being long the equivalent of \in 36,210 worth of the Euro Stoxx 50 index. That is 11:1 gearing (which rises asymmetrically as the index rises).



One would think that a move to 4,000 on the Index (a nice round figure to remember) -a 19% move that would give you a 118% return - wouldn't be hard to achieve (and you have

some 9 years up your sleeve to get there). From the graph below, 4000 doesn't even get you back to pre-GFC highs.



Now, for the sad/bad news... For some bureaucratic/illogical/stupid reason these options (which trade on the Frankfurt exchange) are not available to US citizens. If you aren't a US citizen, you can buy these options on the IB platform (code ESTX50).



Now, why do I mention these?

Think about this... You know our stance on the euro.

If the euro gets pounded and/or breaks up in some shape or form (not a far stretch given political fragmentation in Europe), then capital will seek alternatives to cash.

If this takes place in an inflationary outcome, which we believe likely given the bond market troubles, and the fact that keeping that particular ball of yarn together does and would require extraordinary political coordination across the Eurozone (remembering this is fragmenting as I write to you), then the inflationary outcome is rather plausible and, dare I say, probable. In such a scenario you ask yourself...

Who benefits? Where does capital flee to?

Certainly much of it will seek the "safety" of US treasuries and even equities, and once citizens have stopped stocking up on baked beans, then owning equities will be a means of preservation of capital as it always has been in currency crises around the world. Playing this with options, which are so very cheap, provides an asymmetric hedge.

THE HONG KONG DOLLAR PEG

We have been asked by a number of members about what we think of Kyle Bass's thoughts on the Hong Kong dollar breaking its peg with the USD and the "credit bubble" in China.

Bass is talking about ultra low implied volatility on long dated options on the Hong Kong dollar and he gives a compelling narrative on why the Hong Kong is about to break the peg with the US dollar.



We don't disagree with the extremely low volatility in long dated USD calls... and this goes for pretty much any FX swap vs the USD out there. It's magnified in those currencies which are pegged for obvious reasons.

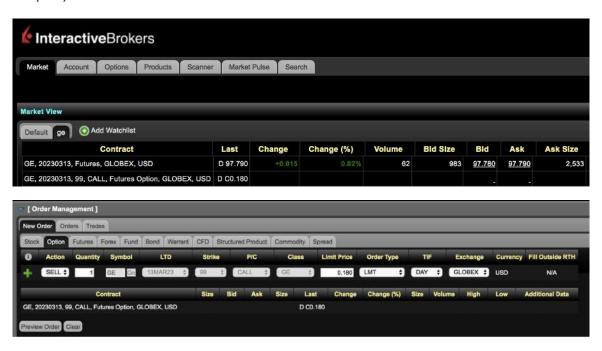
Here's the nub and the rub. If we could buy long-term calls on the USD/HKD we would. **The cost of long-term options are extremely low, and if we could, we'd be a fool not to take a position.** There is no sophisticated narrative required. The problem is we just don't know who offers a market in the USD/HKD, let alone long-term options.

I suspect Bass is doing this OTC, which makes sense. It would require a hefty balance sheet which his fund has (over \$100m), and that leaves us out of this particular game.

So is there any substitute for long-term calls on the USD/HKD available to retail traders? Well, if the shit hit the fan, then the best place to be would be in eurodollar futures, specifically long term OTM calls on eurodollar futures.

We have talked about eurodollar futures and options before, and they are probably only appropriate for more sophisticated investors.

Options are available for eurodollar futures going out 4 years (March 2023). Currently the futures are trading at 97.79, and if we go OTM to, say, the 99 strike, then the calls would only cost 18 bpts: $$450 (0.18 \times $2,500)$. Note the Code on IB is "GE" — not to be confused with the company.



I realise I'm being a "little bit" light on an explanation here, but this is because I don't want this to take up too much of this missive and because I suspect that for many folks this is going to scare them, especially if not well acquainted with the eurodollar futures and options markets.

Tesla: Baccery Mecals Shorcage

Before you turn-off because you correlate Tesla with Musk... and Musk with a bullshit artist, the <u>comments in the article</u> came from Tesla's head of procurement.



It really amounts to the head of Tesla's procurement telling us what we already know.

However, it is a little bit funny that hydrogen/FCell vehicles don't suffer from the battery metals shortage issues. Funny because Musk has laughed at the idea of hydrogen powered FCell cars.

They do, however, still have the same electric motor that BEVs have... and that involves a lot of copper and REMs. For the motor, not the batteries.

NO FEAR OF INFLACION

This ties into what we were saying last week (i.e. "Is Inflation Dead" - as per the front page of Businessweek magazine).

Renz expects inflation to remain below target until mid-2021

Central bank says outlook for employment growth more subdued

New Zealand Cuts Interest Rates to Historical Rates to Historical Rates to Historical Rates to Historical Rates and Rates and Rates Rates to Historical Rates Rates Rates Rates to Historical Rates Rates Rates to Historical Rates Rates Rates Rates to Historical Rates Ra

Even in the far corners of the globe there does not appear to be any fear of inflation whatsoever.

We shudder to think of the consequences of inflation not being dead and surprising even the wildest of inflationary bulls 5 years from now.

We are at extremes here, both in sentiment and in positioning.

THE PHOENIX IS RISING

We admit to being quiet on the Bitcoin front over the last 12 months or so, but our thoughts haven't changed.

There is more to Bitcoin and the crypto-currency sector than a few desperados sitting at home in their undies punting "make believe" currency.

Whole Foods (part of Amazon) and Nordstrom are now accepting Bitcoin. This is significant!

Bitcoin Comes to Whole Foods, Major Retailers in **Coup for Digital Currency**

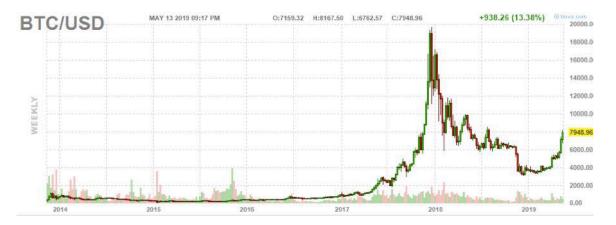






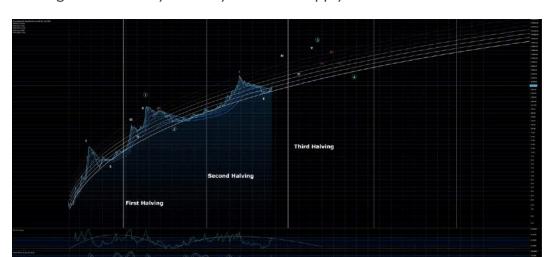
From the article:

"Since its arrival ten years ago, cryptocurrency has struggled to enter mainstream commerce. This could soon change thanks to a new initiative, announced on Monday, that will reportedly see big name retailers—including Crate and Barrel, Nordstrom, and Amazon-owned Whole Foods—now accept Bitcoin and three other types of digital money."



Also, as I mentioned in the webinar this week, the institutions are getting involved.





And the halving is less than a year away when the supply of bitcoin minted is halved.

We remain long. Next stop \$100,000.

SIGNS YOU DON'T SEE AT THE TOP

And as I was about to sign off on this week's edition, Kuppy sent me some fantastic news with the headline above.

"Maxim confirms exit from shipping

New York bank drops coverage of five shipowners days after analyst departure.

May 16th, 2019 21:16 GMT by Joe Brady

The other shoe has dropped for Maxim Research in its dance with the shipping sector, and it sees five owners formerly under coverage getting the boot.

Days after parting ways with shipping analyst James Jang, Maxim issued a "termination of coverage" release today on DHT Holdings, StealthGas, Genco Shipping & Trading, Nordic American Tankers and Navigator Gas Holdings.

They had been the shipowners in Jang's portfolio. All but sell-rated NAT had carried buy ratings from the senior analyst, who had been with Maxim about two years."

THE BIG FIVE

From our trading desk

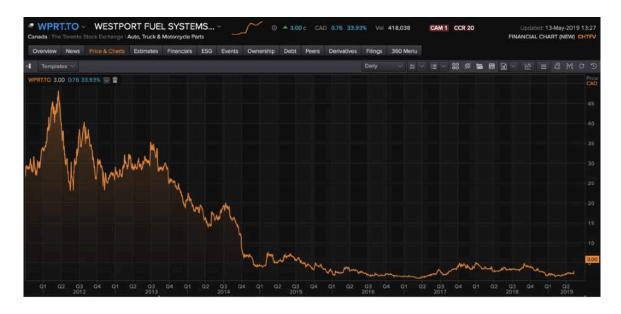
Five stocks that look to be hammering out long-term bottoms and coming out of long-term bear markets. **These aren't trade alerts** but rather invitations to take a closer look because the charts are suggesting the start of a long term bullish move.

OK while these aren't official trade alerts we do think **you would be insane to short these stocks in equal amounts** and hold those short positions for 5 years.

- Westport Fuel Systems
- Iofina
- Teekay Tankers
- Nel
- Hydrogenics

Westport Fuel Systems

We have mentioned Westport Fuel Systems a few times over the last couple of years in the Big Five. Alternative fuels systems for the automotive industry, essentially LPG & CNG systems.



Iofina

Manufacturer of iodine. Interesting in that we use iodine almost every day with 60% of world supply coming from Chile and 20% coming from Japan. Prices for iodine have been rising for the last couple of years. And honestly that is about as much as I know (for now).



Teekay Tankers

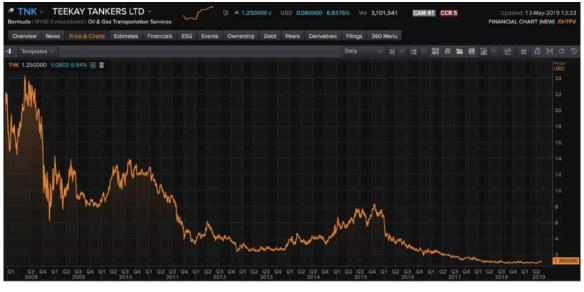
Primarily an operator of mid-size crude oil tanker vessels (Aframax and Suezmax), as opposed to a company like DHT, which specializes in VLCC (the largest class). As with most of the crude oil tanker stocks, Teekay is moving higher and breaking out of a long-term bear trend.

Are we seeing the initial stages of a boom in tankers?

The dramatic increase in production from shale and the inability of US refineries to handle "light sweet" oil means that the US will be exporting and importing more.

Combine this with the IMO 2020 initiative and the dramatic reduction in the supply of new ships being commissioned over the next 5 years provide us with a perfect storm. **Yip, we can make a strong argument for tanker stocks rocketing and having next to no correlation with the Dow.**

I don't think there is anything special with TNK over and above other tanker stocks. It's a sectoral thing and one must be wondering how much exposure to take rather than necessarily which stocks to pick.





Nel ASA

I have lost count how many times I have mentioned Nel in the Big Five. From recollection I first mentioned it mid last year.

Sometimes one comes across a setup where a "picture says a thousand fundamental words." Nel's long-term setup was the epitome of what we are looking for in the Big Five and The Insider in general.

A stock (and sector) smashed beyond recognition, a long-term bottoming process (stock prices having traded in a sideways trading range for at least a couple of years), and a breakout of that trading range.

Of course, not to forget the fact that no one in mainstream investment circles has heard of Nel (or taking any notice of the hydrogen sector).





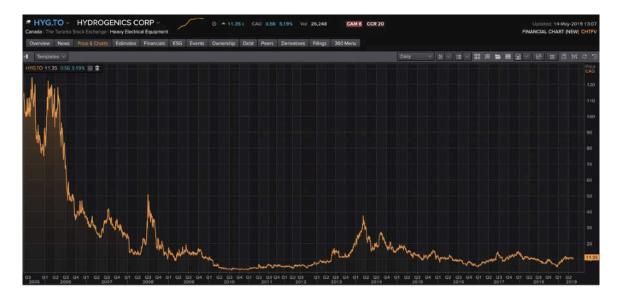
Nel was one of our stock picks for the hydrogen Alert we just posted a few days ago. When to take profits? When hydrogen becomes all the rage with mainstream investors. That is, a long time from now.

Hydrogenics

A company with operations not too dissimilar to NEL.

This was also one of our picks for the hydrogen Alert. If it was good enough for France's Air Liquide, then it's good enough for us.

Hydrogenics is building the world's biggest electrolyzer plant in Canada. We have noted strength in this stock over the last week against a backdrop of generally weak equity markets.



REFER A FRIEND

Much of our subscriber base love our work and refer their friends. For this we're extremely grateful as we're isht at marketing, dislike it, and prefer to spend our time on things that make us happy. Markets basically.

I'd hate for any of you to refer friends and not get something out of it, which is why we have a 30% discount both for your friends, colleagues, and even your enemies if you send them this way. And you'll score yourself a bonus 4-month subscription, which amounts to the same thing.

Nobody wants to feel like they're selling their mates something only so they can get something in return. That's not how friends work.

In any event, below is the link for this so when you're singing the praises to your friends, please use this link to ensure they get a better deal... and you do, too.

INSIDER COMMUNITY

As per usual, a gentle reminder to join us on the Slack community. <u>Just go here</u>.

As always, thanks for reading and being part of Insider.

Sincerely,

Chris MacIntosh

Founder & Editor In Chief, Capitalist Exploits Independent Investment Research Founder & Managing Partner, Glenorchy Capital

Unauthorized Disclosure Prohibited

The information provided in this publication is private, privileged, and confidential information, licensed for your sole individual use as a subscriber. Capitalist Exploits reserves all rights to the content of this publication and related materials. Forwarding, copying, disseminating, or distributing this report in whole or in part, including substantial quotation of any portion of the publication or any release of specific investment recommendations, is strictly prohibited.

Participation in such activity is grounds for immediate termination of all subscriptions of registered subscribers deemed to be involved at Capitalist Exploits. Capitalist Exploits reserves the right to monitor the use of this publication without disclosure by any electronic means it deems necessary and may change those means without notice at any time. If you have received this publication and are not the intended subscriber, please contact admin@capitalistexploits.at.

Disclaimers

Capitalist Exploits website, World Out Of Whack, Insider, and any content published by Capitalist Exploits is obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The information contained in such publications is not intended to constitute individual investment advice and is not designed to meet your personal financial situation. The opinions expressed in such publications are those of the publisher and are subject to change without notice. The information in such publications may become outdated and there is no obligation to update any such information. You are advised to discuss with your financial advisers your investment options and whether any investment is suitable for your specific needs prior to making any investments.

Capitalist Exploits and other entities in which it has an interest, employees, officers, family, and associates may from time to time have positions in the securities or commodities covered in publications or the website. Corporate policies are in effect that attempt to avoid potential conflicts of interest and resolve conflicts of interest should they arise, in a timely fashion.

Capitalist Exploits reserves the right to cancel any subscription at any time, and if it does so it will promptly refund to the subscriber the amount of the subscription payment previously received relating to the remaining subscription period. Cancellation of a subscription may result from any unauthorized use or reproduction or rebroadcast of any Capitalist Exploits paid publication/s, any infringement or misappropriation of Capitalist Exploits proprietary rights, or any other reason determined in the sole discretion of Capitalist Exploits.

Affiliate Notice

Capitalist Exploits has affiliate agreements in place that may include fee sharing. If you have a website and would like to be considered for inclusion in the Capitalist Exploits affiliate program, please email <u>admin@capitalistexploits.at</u>. Likewise, from time to time Capitalist Exploits may engage in affiliate programs covered by other companies, though corporate policy firmly dictates that such agreements will have no influence on any product or service recommendations, nor alter the pricing that would otherwise be available in absence of such an agreement. As always, it is important that you do your own due diligence before transacting any business with any firm, for any product or service.

© Copyright 2019 by Capitalist Exploits