

CHAPTER NEWS

LAMS Chapter Newsletter April 2024

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Please make sure all your club members get a copy of the Newsletter. If anyone needs help subscribing just email us at

contact@lams.betterinvesting.net

We'll be glad to help.



President's Message

In Herman Melville's great book, Moby Dick, there is a violent and turbulent chapter in which the whaleboat is racing across the white-capped ocean in pursuit of the great white whale. The whaleboat is filled with men straining with all their

might. They are pulling at the oars and every muscle is taut. All their labor is bent towards the task. Everyone in the boat is working feverishly in the great pursuit – except one man.

There is one man in the boat that does nothing. He is almost lazy in the midst of all this action. He doesn't hold an oar. He doesn't sweat like the other men, he doesn't shout. He is quiet in the midst of the chaos. And then Melville writes this sentence:

“To insure the greatest efficiency in the dart, the harpooners of this world must start to their feet out of idleness, and not out of toil.”

In order for the work of the harpooner to be effective he must begin from a place of quiet in the midst of chaos. His work is critical. It is the purpose of all the activity and energy and strain. He is there to rise at the appropriate moment and throw the dart, to pierce the whale. But if he is exhausted and caught up in the frenzy and chaos he will miss the target.

What does that have to do with investing, you ask? The parallels are everywhere:

- We are in a great pursuit – not the great white whale but high-quality investments at a good price.
- We are surrounded by noise and chaos because of the 24-hour news cycle and the financial headlines.
- We live a world of constant activity – racing to and fro without a moment to think.
- We live in turbulent times when it looks like the world is held together by tape and chewing gum – not the good Scotch tape, but the cheap dollar store variety. We are expected to join in the worries and anxieties that drive others.

But we must learn to invest like the harpooner:

- We must shut out the noise of doom and gloom. To paraphrase Rudyard Kipling – we must learn to keep our heads, when all about us others are losing theirs.
- We must ignore the frenzy and chaos within that feels the need to do something – anything. Buy. Sell. Trade. We must learn to sit and hold as long as it makes sense to do so. We have to learn to do nothing most of the time.
- We must sit quietly and prepare our SSG's by looking at the facts of sales and earnings. We must focus on the long-term “up, straight and parallel”, not the daily gyrations of Mr. Market.
- We must be willing to stand alone and apart from the prevailing turbulence, so that we can make wise decisions.

Happy hunting!

Dennis Malcolm



Roundup 2024

Doug Gerlach Day

LAMS Chapter is in the process of planning our Chapter Roundup for 2024. It's being planned for the first Saturday of November (Nov. 2). Doug Gerlach has graciously accepted our invitation to come to the Roundup and provide our Chapter with several of his excellent presentations.

Doug has a long list of accomplishments, enough to fill this entire newsletter. He has been teaching individuals and investment clubs about investing for the past 30 years. He is the author of six books and is currently President of ICLUBcentral. He's also the founder and editor-in-chief of the Small Cap Informer, as well as editor-in-chief of the Investor Advisory Service and the Dividend Informer. He has had many articles published in several magazines and websites, and is a popular speaker at investing events around the country for many other organizations besides BetterInvesting.

Here's a little known fact about Doug. Back in 1995 he was the founder and editor-in-chief of his own website called Investorama.com, one of the earliest personal finance sites on the Web. This website gave users access to data service that allowed Toolkit to download five years of data into the SSG for free.

We're working with Doug to zero in on the presentations that he will provide our Chapter for the Roundup.



Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to these five LAMS Chapter clubs. BetterInvesting awards certificates to clubs when they reach increments of five years as BI clubs. All these clubs have been around awhile. Certificates go to:

Years	Club	City
65	Quelqueshue Syndicate	Lake Charles, LA
45	L'argent Investment Club	Lake Charles, LA
35	Southwest Investors	Lake Charles, LA
30	Les Bonnes Investors	New Orleans, LA
30	Teche Valley InvestmentClub	St. Martinville, LA



Introducing someone new to BetterInvesting?

Share this quick three-minute video to provide a concise yet comprehensive overview of how the Stock Selection Guide (SSG) empowers investors to make informed decisions. It's the perfect introduction for anyone curious about what we do and eager to explore the world of BetterInvesting!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aT34Ou-AU>

The name of the video is **How to Make Money with Stocks using BetterInvesting Online Tools**.

In this insightful video, **discover the power of the Stock Selection Guide** from BetterInvesting and how it can empower you to make informed investment decisions. Whether you're a seasoned investor or just starting on your financial journey, these online tools are designed to enhance your understanding of the stock market and boost the performance of your portfolio.

Key Features Covered:

Stock Selection Guide: Dive deep into the BetterInvesting Stock Selection Guide, a comprehensive tool that simplifies the complex process of evaluating stocks. Learn how to assess a company's growth potential, financial health, and much more!

Investment Decision-Making: Explore how these tools can streamline your decision-making process by providing valuable insights and analysis. Make confident choices backed by data and thorough research.

Why BetterInvesting Online Tools? BetterInvesting's online tools bring the expertise of seasoned investors to your fingertips, making financial success more achievable for everyone.



Does Your Club's Portfolio Need a Tune-up?

BetterInvesting Magazine's popular "Repair Shop" offers an in-depth evaluation of investment club portfolios by chartered financial analysts Scott Horsburgh and Dan Boyle.

If you'd like your investment club to be featured, send BetterInvesting a description of your club, when it was founded, your hometown, and how the club makes its investing decisions.

Include your valuation statement and a picture of the club. The photo should be high resolution (300 pixels per inch). List members' names from left to right, plus the names of members who aren't in the picture.

Email this material to Jan Jeffres at janj@betterinvesting.org.

She will send the material to the Repair Shop writers, who decide which clubs they'll profile.

It may take a couple of months until you hear back. This is a competitive process and not all clubs will be chosen.

We've already had some of our LAMS clubs featured in *BetterInvesting Magazine*. It would be nice to see some more of our clubs featured.



LAMS Chapter Model Investment Club

New to BetterInvesting? Not in a club? Trying to learn the SSG but need to see it in action to understand it better? Need to find some friends to learn from and learn with? Interested in some new stock ideas? LAMS Model Club is made up of both experienced and newbie investors. We learn together and challenge each other to learn and earn better returns. All our meetings are open to visitors to watch, listen, and learn. We welcome questions and comments.

Interested in starting an investment club? Invite your potential members to attend with you to see how a BetterInvesting club operates.

All monthly meetings are held online using GoToWebinar. Visitors have the opportunity to gain limited access to the Club's myICLUB website where they can look more closely into the Club's portfolio and returns. Existing clubs and club members might go away with an idea or two to use in their own clubs. We strive to invest in good quality growth companies bought at the right price.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month (second Monday if there is a holiday conflict) at 7:30 PM. Our next meeting dates are April 1, May 6 and June 3.

You're also invited to forward the contact information to your club members and friends who might be interested in learning about investment clubs or investing the BI way. BetterInvesting members and non-members are welcome. Our next meeting dates are April 1, May 6, and June 3.

We use GoToWebinar for meetings. To attend please register ahead of time at:

(Note: This is a new registration link for 2024)

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8064740103851396448>

You can also dial in using your phone: 1 (646) 749-3131.

Enter Access Code: 944-996-925.

If you'd like more information about the Model Club or about attending a meeting you can contact Eric Resweber at

contact@lams.betterinvesting.net.



First Cut Race

First Cut stock reports consist of a completed Stock Selection Guide (SSG) showing the judgments made by the author, and a written report sharing why each judgment was made. Use these reports to find potential investments and to compare your SSG with others from our community of investors. They're created by BI members who seek to give back to the BI community by sharing their own stock studies. All members are encouraged to submit First Cut studies to BetterInvesting to contribute for all of us to learn from each other.

Submitting First Cuts can also help the LAMS Chapter. BetterInvesting holds a First Cut Challenge contest among the chapters. The chapters are categorized by size. LAMS is considered a medium sized chapter and we're competing with 10 other chapters. Each chapter has a goal. Our goal is to submit 3 First Cuts this

year. If we meet that goal the Chapter will be awarded \$50 to go into the Chapter treasury for expenses. In addition, the chapter that submits the most First Cuts can win an additional \$150. Second place wins an extra \$100, and third place gets an extra \$75. The contest runs from January 1, 2024 to December 15, 2024.

This is a way for our **LAMS Chapter members to help** the Chapter financially. But doing a First Cut will also help the member who submits it. The First Cut form is designed to explain the judgements that went into preparing the SSG. It gives a framework for the user to put into words the judgements used on the SSG. And it's a good way to learn consistency when preparing an SSG.

Benefits of doing a First Cut:

- Helps you organize your thoughts
- Documents your reasons for your judgements for later reference
- Share ideas with your fellow investors
- Improve your SSG skills

An investment club can also submit First Cuts. This would be a great project for any club and would make an excellent education segment for a meeting. The club can prepare an SSG together and discuss each judgement for the SSG in the process. Club submissions also count toward the Chapter's goal.

The First Cut template might look a little intimidating at first, but after using it a few times it really becomes very easy to fill out. Instructions on how to submit are on the template itself.

The First Cut template, as well as a long list of First Cut stock reports, is available here:

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/members/find-great-stocks/first-cut-stock-reports>

Please consider submitting First Cuts to the archived library of First Cuts. It will benefit the individual, the club, the Chapter, and the entire BetterInvesting community.

LAMS Chapter Stock Pickers Contest

Here's the status of the Stock Picking Contest. Each portfolio began at \$100,000. Two to ten securities could be chosen. You could enter a security if Yahoo could price it, no cryptocurrencies.

Black names are individuals.

Blue names are investment clubs.

Green names are benchmarks.

Red names are other information.

\$100 to winning club.

\$50 to winning individual.

LaMs Chapter Stock Pickers Contest					03/01/24
November 2023 until Next Round-Up					12:23 PM
Portfolio Name	3/1/24 Mkt Value	2/2/24 Mkt Value	12/29/23 Mkt Value	12/1/23 Mkt Value	11/30/23 Mkt Value
Karen Peavy (DSIC)	216,659.02	154,926.67	103,804.79	101,420.25	100,000.00
Dennis Malcolm (LMMIC)	134,152.64	133,132.83	121,414.84	105,719.25	100,000.00
Favorites - Top 10 Choices	130,326.28	118,075.17	104,443.62	101,107.94	100,000.00
Dollar A Day IC (Jackson)	120,502.39	113,833.21	103,892.94	99,751.03	100,000.00
Winner 2022 Portfolio	120,108.81	113,297.86	103,956.65	101,782.11	100,000.00
Kaye Clingan (LMMIC)(EIC)(DAD)	116,321.60	114,295.33	112,948.44	102,353.46	100,000.00
Jane Owens (LLIC)	115,144.68	113,922.88	107,039.39	100,596.74	100,000.00
Benchmark Index	112,237.18	108,555.76	104,422.92	100,587.37	100,000.00
Benchmark EFT	112,145.05	108,315.08	104,163.01	100,591.59	100,000.00
Eric Resweber (LMMIC)	108,979.56	105,261.20	109,394.02	102,654.44	100,000.00
Jo Watkins	108,927.86	111,139.41	110,276.64	102,580.54	100,000.00
Dollars & Sense IC (DeRidder)	107,837.82	107,891.87	102,001.60	99,434.90	100,000.00
SW Investors	106,609.60	105,194.03	105,174.53	101,336.64	100,000.00
Janice Prejean	105,870.11	107,105.42	105,150.74	100,180.09	100,000.00
Janice Caamano (LLIC)	104,914.36	105,287.70	103,856.00	100,721.45	100,000.00
Deborah McKean	102,438.97	97,458.66	96,343.21	97,071.77	100,000.00
Everyday IC (Jackson)	102,098.78	103,659.11	111,894.78	103,483.35	100,000.00
Gretchen Blondeau (LMMIC)(LLIC)	102,077.11	104,418.16	112,337.55	102,076.81	100,000.00
Ladies Lagniappe IC	98,902.85	101,704.66	108,506.76	102,171.89	100,000.00
Joe Farrell (Not in contest) 4 bank stocks	101,714.71	106,177.76	117,556.91	104,995.67	100,000.00

Here are the securities that were entered in the contest. There are some interesting ideas hear, along with some BI community favorites.

Stocks are mentioned for educational purposes only. No investment recommendations are intended. Do your own research.

ADUS	Addus Homecare	GMED	Globus Medical
ADBE	Adobe Systems	INDB	Independent Bank MA
AAP	Advance Auto Parts	INMD	InMode
AMD	Advanced Micro Dev	NSP	Insperty
APD	Air Products & Chem	INTC	Intel
GOOG	Alphabet (Google)	SOXX	iShares PHLX SOX Semiconductor
AMZN	Amazon.com	IJR	iShares S&P Small Cap 600 Index
AMGN	Amgen	JNJ	Johnson & Johnson
AAPL	Apple	KHC	Kraft Heinz
AROC	Archrock	EL	Lauder, Estee
ARDX	Ardelyx	MBUU	Malibu Boats
AXON	Axon Enterprise	MRTN	Marten Transport Ltd
AX	Axos Financial	MCD	McDonald's
OZK	Bank OZK	META	Meta Platforms [Facebook]
BRK-B	Berkshire Hathaway B	MSFT	Microsoft
BLK	BlackRock	MNST	Monster Beverage
BA	Boeing	NFLX	Netflix
BEPC	Brookfield Renewable Corp	NVO	Novo Nordisk
CCL	Carnival Corp.	NVDA	NVIDIA Corp.
CAT	Caterpillar Inc.	OKE	ONEOK Inc.
CAVA	Cava Group	PAYC	Paycom Software
CF	CF Industries	PYPL	PayPal
CI	CIGNA Group	PEP	Pepsi
CTSH	Cognizant Technology	PPG	PPG Industries
CNXC	Concentrix	RTX	Raytheon Technologies
STZ	Constellation Brands	RMD	ResMed
COST	Costco Wholesale	RIVN	Rivian Automotive
DAR	Darling Ingredients	SSD	Simpson Mfg
DG	Dollar General	SWKS	Skyworks Solutions
EGP	EastGroup Properties	SPY	SPDRs S&P 500
EPAM	EPAM Systems	SBUX	Starbucks
HACK	ETFMG Prime Cyber Security ETF	SMCI	Super Micro Computer
FDS	FactSet Research	TSLA	Tesla
FFWM	First Foundation	TSCO	Tractor Supply
FRME	First Merchants	TFC	Truist Financial
FLT	FleetCor Technologies	ULTA	Ulta Beauty
FOXF	Fox Factory	VZ	Verizon
GNRC	Generac	V	Visa Inc.
GNTX	Gentex	VVOS	Vivos Therapeutics Inc
CLOU	Global X Cloud Computing ETF	WBA	Walgreen



Useful Links

If you're not currently a member of **BetterInvesting** you can visit the BetterInvesting website to learn more about the organization

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/>

LAMS Chapter web page

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/lams>

Register to attend LAMS Model Club meetings as a guest

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8064740103851396448>

If this newsletter was **forwarded to you** and **you would like to subscribe** to the newsletter click:

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/lams>

and fill out the form. We'd love to have you join us!

Video Learning Library—BetterInvesting members can access the very many archived webinar recordings here:

<https://lists.betterinvesting.org/link.php?M=3389991&N=25554&L=12063&F=H>

Guests and non-members can also access **a sampling of BetterInvesting webinars** to learn more about BetterInvesting, investing the BI way, investment clubs, and more:

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/learn-about-investing/free-videos>

New LAMS Chapter Members this past quarter:

A BetterInvesting club in Lafayette, LA has a new member. And we have three new individual members, one in River Ridge, LA, one in Flowood, MS, and one in Gonzales, LA. We welcome all our new Chapter members.

These are your Volunteer Louisiana/Mississippi Chapter directors

Angela Lannen, DeRidder, LA

Kaye Clingan, Jackson, MS

Eric Resweber, Zachary, LA

Joe Farrell, Jackson, MS

Dennis Malcolm, Lafayette, LA

David Arnold, Hattiesburg, MS

Jimmy Stewart, Jackson, MS

Ghanashyam Patel, New Orleans, LA

If you have a question about BetterInvesting, investment clubs, or investing in general, contact a director near you at contact@lams.betterinvesting.net

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