



## CHAPTER NEWS

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Jim Gallagher)**

Welcome to the Summer 2026 newsletter for the North Florida Chapter of BetterInvesting! It's another busy year for us. If you are new to BI and the North Florida Chapter, I hope you and all other members come to value our educational events and volunteers as useful resources in developing your skills as an investor. I'm always in awe of the time and effort that our Board members and other volunteers in the North Florida Chapter commit to helping other BI members...not only in our Chapter area but around the country...to become better investors.

### **North Florida Chapter Upcoming Events**

We are proud to host excellent online educational events which are attended by BI members from other Chapters. We'd like to have some of you from our own Chapter join us as well! Please mark your calendar and register for our upcoming events: They can also be found on our Chapter webpage <https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/north-florida/local-events>

[Space Coast Model Investment Club](#), first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm ET - welcomes new members and guests

[Tuesday Training Workshop](#), first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm ET - Excellent series of classes on a variety of topics, SSGPlus, Value line, Morningstar, Stock Screens, PERT, etc.

[North Florida Chapter Board Meeting](#), first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm ET - monthly meetings to discuss our Chapter Business and Upcoming events, open to Visitors

[First Cut Mentoring Workshop](#), third Wednesday of Jan, April, July and Oct at 7:00 pm ET - Open to all BI Members across the country. Come listen in and participate in a First Cut Analysis

The next FC workshop is scheduled for July 15th. We will do a step-by-step walk through on a First Cut for Nvidia Corporation (NVDA). Our goal is to educate all attendees on the process of putting a First Cut together. We believe the FC process

helps investors create better Stock Studies resulting in better individual investment decisions. These workshops are interactive. We ask attendees what their judgements are and how they came up with them. We also discuss how AI may be helpful to you when completing a First Cut.

NFC 3rd Wed. Quarterly First Cut Mentoring Workshop July 15th, at 7pm ET Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2243054735604789856>

Social Media: [Facebook Group](#) stay up to date on events and discuss BI related topics

### **Volunteers Needed!!**

Volunteers conduct all our events and support services. We need new volunteers, including Board of Directors members, to help with these events if they are to continue. Some of our volunteer directors are new. Some have been volunteering for 30 years. We have fun doing what we do and enjoy each other's company at our meetings. We meet online, so you don't even have to leave your home.

If you have enjoyed any of our events or services, please consider volunteering to help us keep our events going into the future. Whether you have a few hours now and then or can make a longer commitment, you can be of enormous help. Have fun while furthering the education and outreach goals of BetterInvesting. Friends don't let friends retire broke!

To join the adventure contact us and learn more [here](#).

### **Annual Membership Meeting**

***(Save the Date: Saturday, September 12th, 10:00 AM ET)***

Congratulations to all the clubs celebrating Milestone Anniversaries this year! Join us as we celebrate long-lived North Florida Chapter Investment Clubs at our Annual Membership Meeting. We will honor clubs that have achieved amazing milestones, and we will engage in a discussion of some of the lessons learned by long-standing investment clubs and their members. We are reaching out to all North Florida Clubs and members to share their experiences and learn from one another. We want clubs and members to let us know what the chapter can do to help you succeed as investors.

In addition, we will celebrate our FY 2026 Chapter accomplishments, honor our volunteers, and elect our newest board of director members. Our online Annual meeting is on Saturday September 12th from 10am to 11:30am ET. [Here](#) is the link to register for the [Annual Meeting](#).

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Club Visits**

Visiting investment clubs in our chapter is one of our best ways to build relationships. We are always excited to visit clubs to keep members up-to-date and provide education. The North Florida Chapter has a well-rounded group of volunteers who can provide education on any topic to your club. We are reaching out to the clubs celebrating certificate milestones, and also new clubs, to schedule visits.

***Congratulations!!*** to the 10 clubs celebrating milestones this year. We have received Anniversary Certificates for these clubs and will try to schedule a visit in person to present these!

- Pelican Investment Club - 40 Years
- Sisters & Mispucha - 30 Years
- Blue Chips & Salsa - 30 Years
- WIN - Women Investing Now - 30 Years
- Cents & Sensibility - 30 Years
- PSC - 35 Years
- Cherry Capital - 35 Years
- Chartbusters - 40 Years
- Profiteers - 60 Years
- Friends - 25 Years

Pelican Investment Club. We visited this club in April to celebrate their 40th anniversary and to discuss with them the role of the Chapter and the educational opportunities available through the Chapter. I was most impressed that each of the members present had prepared SSGs on their assigned stocks and were up to date on significant happenings in their companies.



Jim Gallagher presenting Pelican Investment Club 40 year certificate to club President Doug John

### **FIRST CUT RACE (Laura Scott)**

The North Florida Chapter is in a close race with other BI Chapters to submit the most First Cuts. All proceeds will benefit the North Florida Chapter outreach and education goals like our Tuesday Training Workshops and our GoTo Webinar license fees. You can find some great stock ideas that other BetterInvesting members have submitted by clicking [here](#).

We need your help! Please submit First Cuts that you or your club are studying. All submissions from the North Florida Chapter will count towards our chapter total.

Be sure to enter the "North Florida Chapter" in your First Cut form so we'll get credit.

- 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
- Improves your SSG skills

Find your First Cut template [here](#):

Improve your SSG skills and join us for the next [First Cut Mentoring Workshop](#) on July 15 at 7PM ET. Stock to Study will be Nvidia.

### **BINC ROUNDUP FIRST-TIMER (Titus Er)**

Attending the BetterInvesting National Convention (BINC) was a valuable experience and a meaningful introduction to the broader BI community. Having been a BI member for only about a year, I arrived eager to learn from more experienced investors and deepen my understanding of the investment process. Throughout the conference, I was exposed to a wide range of perspectives on equity analysis, portfolio construction, and long-term investing that expanded upon what I had previously learned through my own research and investing activities. One of the most memorable sessions was the keynote presentation by David Gardner. His discussion of long-term investing and business quality offered a perspective that was both thoughtful and practical. The educational sessions were equally beneficial. In particular, I gained a better understanding of how to use Google Sheets as an investing tool, how to read and interpret Value Line reports more effectively. The classes were engaging, well-structured, and focused on skills that I can immediately use and apply to my own research process.

What distinguished BINC most was the people. Despite being one of the younger attendees and a relatively new member, I was welcomed warmly by members from across the country. Conversations between sessions often proved just as valuable as the formal presentations, as experienced investors were consistently willing to answer questions, share their perspectives, and discuss their own investing approaches. I was particularly appreciative of how approachable everyone was and how willing they were to help newer investors learn. I was able to exchange contact information with several more seasoned members and look forward to staying in touch with them as I continue developing as an investor. The conference reinforced the importance of continuous learning and demonstrated the strength of the BetterInvesting community. I left with a stronger foundation as an investor, a broader network of peers, and a greater appreciation for the organization's commitment to investor education.



Darren, Robin and Titus at BINC

### **BINC ROUNDUP FROM A BINC VETERAN (Phil Crocker)**

Just a few thoughts from BINC 75. I always look forward to renewing old friendships from previous BetterInvesting Conferences and meeting new friends. There were over 100 first-time investors "NEWBIES" and most of them were enrolled in the beginner classes. It's a great sign for the future of BI.

I took my 24-year-old grandson and he had a fine time. Hopefully, a seed was planted for his financial future. The most difficult recurring decision of the weekend was which of the multiple classes each hour do I attend. No matter my choice, all were excellent.

Robin Ware (NFC Director) taught several classes and received high marks and kudos from attendees. One of the highlights of the event was the BINC Cafe. It showcased 75 years of NAIC/BI memorabilia. There were lots of souvenirs and signage from past conventions. My favorite exhibit was a collection of documents from the very beginning of NAIC in 1951.

At Sunday morning breakfast, I gave a short speech about my BI involvement of 40+ years. It's been a wonderful journey with lots of great memories and friendships.

I view my membership in BI as "A lifelong college course in INVESTOLOGY". It has served me well.

### **Space Coast Model Investment Club (Sam Mortellaro)**

#### *Introduction to the Space Coast Model Investment Club*

The Space Coast Model Investment Club (SCMIC) is sponsored by the BetterInvesting (BI) North Florida Chapter (NFC). We have a mix of partner-members from the NFC of

BI and members from other chapters in Florida. The biggest difference between our club and traditional BI clubs is we are a model club, and we meet 100% online. Education of members as well as the audience in BI principles is part of what we strive to achieve. This while conducting traditional club business, with the goal of making money.

Our [Club Minutes](#) are available on Google Drive, which also has active hyperlinks and shows how we conduct our meetings. Each month our partners briefly present their stock and update its status (buy/sell/hold). Additionally, we have an Education and Stock Study presentation each month. In June, Howard Tetrault presented "P/E Analysis and Judgment" and the Stock Study was presented by Jim Gallagher on MercadoLibre (MELI). The links to Education and Stock Study presentations are embedded in the minutes. Also, the full list of presentations are located here for [BI-SCMIC -Education Briefs](#) and here for [BI-SCMIC: Stock Studies](#).

If you would like to attend our Online SCMIC webinar in the future, [Register here](#).

If you have any other questions, contact me at [BISCC.BOD@gmail.com](mailto:BISCC.BOD@gmail.com).

### **THE "BOOKEND" STRATEGY: GUARDING AGAINST BIAS WITH AI (Bob Houle)**

When studying stocks, artificial intelligence can be a dangerous accomplice. If you feed an AI tool optimistic projections, a strong historical growth trend, and a glowing narrative about a company's competitive moat, it will often turn into a "people pleaser." It will echo your enthusiasm and validate your assumptions. In fundamental analysis, that breeds complacency and fuels confirmation bias.

To combat this, I utilize a core methodology called the "Bookend" Strategy. By using two specific prompts, you can strip away the AI's polite exterior at the beginning of a session and neatly package the accumulated wisdom at the end.

#### **Bookend No. 1: The Intellectual Guardrail.**

Before entering financial metrics or pasting a company profile, set the ground rules for the relationship. Open your session with this exact prompt:

"Act like a thoughtful critic, not a people pleaser. If my reasoning is weak, incomplete, or biased, tell me directly and explain why."

This fundamentally alters the output. When you input your estimated revenue growth, the AI will challenge you to defend your data against industry headwinds, capital constraints, or rising debt. It forces a rigorous analysis, which is exactly what a sound stock study requires.

## Bookend No. 2: The Efficiency Engine

A thorough analysis can turn into a long, meandering dialogue as you drill down into profit margins and valuations. Reviewing a massive chat history later is tedious, and recreating that exact breakthrough in future studies is difficult. Once you reach a solid conclusion, close the conversation with this instruction:

Closing Prompt: "Reverse Engineer this entire chat and generate a single prompt that would have produced this final response the first time."

**Key Takeaway:** The AI strips away the conversational noise and delivers a single, hyper-targeted master prompt. You can save this prompt to your personal research library, ready to instantly deploy a rigorous analysis the next time you evaluate a similar company.

Using AI to help with your Stock Analysis can save you lots of research time but still requires you to evaluate the output you are getting. Check it with other sources for accuracy. It's a helpful tool but use it wisely.

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*We hope you found this Newsletter helpful and interesting. Feel free to share it with others who may be interested in joining BetterInvesting. If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe click: <https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/north-florida> and fill out the form.*

*We'd love to have you join us!*

Thank you for reading!  
North Florida Chapter Volunteers