



## Achieving Critical Mass

Achieving Critical Mass (ACM) is the 'Model Stock Investment Club' (Model Club) for the BetterInvesting™ (BI) Pacific Northwest (PNW) Chapter. ACM is a registered investment club partnership in Washington State and is open to members from Washington, northern Idaho, and western Montana.

## NAIC and BetterInvesting

The National Association of Investors Corporation (NAIC) was created in 1951 to help everyday people become successful long-term stock investors, primarily through investment clubs and practical education. Today, NAIC is known as BetterInvesting, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that remains dedicated to helping individuals and investment clubs learn and practice our fundamental approach to stock investing. Its mission includes:

- Educating individual investors and investment clubs
- Providing tools, resources, and training to support sound investing principles
- Promoting practical, disciplined, long-term stock investing for ordinary individuals

Today, BetterInvesting members enjoy access to webinars, online tools, educational events, publications, a supportive community, and software designed to make long-term investing easier to understand

## ACM Objectives

BetterInvesting introduced the Model Stock Investment Club (Model Club) concept in 1951, using live demonstration clubs from the outset to teach sound, long-term investing principles.

ACM, a BetterInvesting Model Club, is a public, educational, demonstration stock investment club designed to show how a club operates using BetterInvesting's proven approach to identifying high-quality growth companies and building a well-managed stock portfolio.

ACM's core purpose is to be a "learning lab" where visitors and members can observe, practice, and refine long-term investing skills.

The Model Club program also demonstrates how an investment club is organized, managed, and operated.



## ACM History

ACM was founded in 1996 in the Model Club style within the Inland Empire BetterInvesting Chapter. Many of the board members have served as long-term partners, helping create a supportive environment where members and visitors learn and practice long-term stock investing together.

## Meetings

ACM usually meets online from 6:30 to 8:30 pm (Pacific Time) on the fourth Monday of each month, except in December. If a holiday falls on the meeting date, the schedule may shift slightly.

Visit the [PNW Chapter Local Events Page](#) for current meeting details and registration.

## Visitors

Visitors are always welcome. You are encouraged to listen, learn, and participate in discussions. Formal club / partnership decisions, however, are reserved for ACM Partners.

## Investments

BetterInvesting and ACM focus on identifying high-quality companies with strong historical performance and the potential for above-average future growth.

Our primary evaluation tool is BetterInvesting's Stock Selection Guide (SSG)—a proven resource that supports informed, long-term investment decisions.

ACM maintains a real investment portfolio owned collectively by the partners. Our approach emphasizes:

- Long-term investing
- Consistent, disciplined analysis
- Building a diversified portfolio of individual companies

Because of this focus, mutual funds are generally not part of our strategy.

## BI Membership and ACM Partnership

Becoming a BetterInvesting member is simple – choose the membership type that fits you. There are no prerequisites, no experience required, and no minimum investment—just a desire to learn long-term investing.



ACM partners may join at any time, subject to the provisions of the partnership agreement and bylaws (available upon request).

Partner requirements:

- Must be a BetterInvesting member.
- Must reside in Washington, Idaho, or Montana.
- Contact the Model Club representative below for more information.

## Participation

Model Clubs encourage active participation from both members and visitors.

ACM partners are expected to:

- Attend meetings regularly and contribute to discussions
- Share ideas and present stock studies to support investment decisions
- Present an educational investing topic periodically
- Contribute \$40–\$100 per month to the ACM portfolio, allowing each partner to build their stake at a comfortable pace

## Accounting

The ACM treasurer maintains transparent and accurate financial records using unit-value accounting software designed specifically for investment clubs.

## Taxes

ACM is organized as an IRS-recognized partnership.

Each year, the club:

- Files IRS Form 1065 (Partnership Return)
- Issues each partner a Schedule K-1 (Form 1065) showing their share of income, deductions, credits, and other tax items.

The club itself pays no income tax; each partner reports their K-1 information on their personal tax return.

## Contact Information

General Contact:

[contact@pnw.betterinvesting.net](mailto:contact@pnw.betterinvesting.net)

Model Club:

[modelclub@pnw.betterinvesting.net](mailto:modelclub@pnw.betterinvesting.net)