

Issue Number 162, JULY 16TH 2014

Per the terms of membership, this letter is strictly confidential.

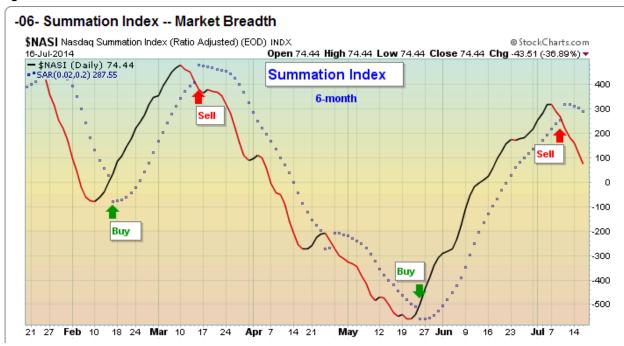
Good evening World 40 members!



Tim asked for a global market update. There are some *JUICY* charts in here. Well, here they are!

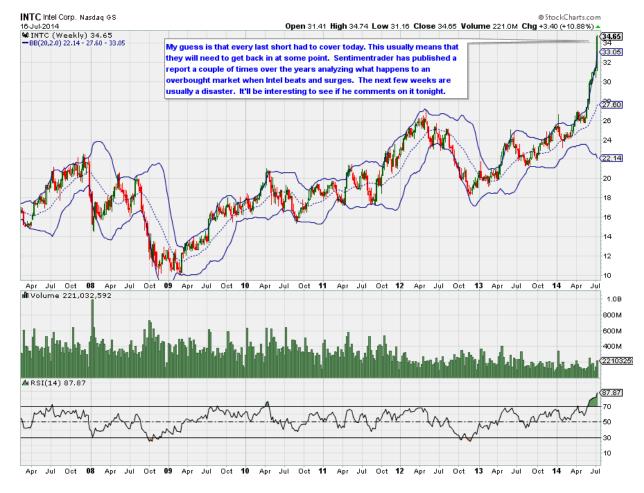


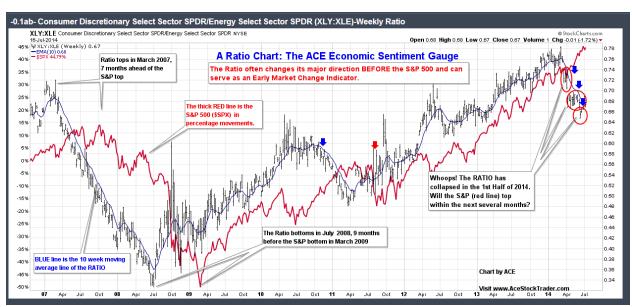
BIG MONEY is made when the NAZ summation index issues a buy signal. When it issues a sell signal,....well.....



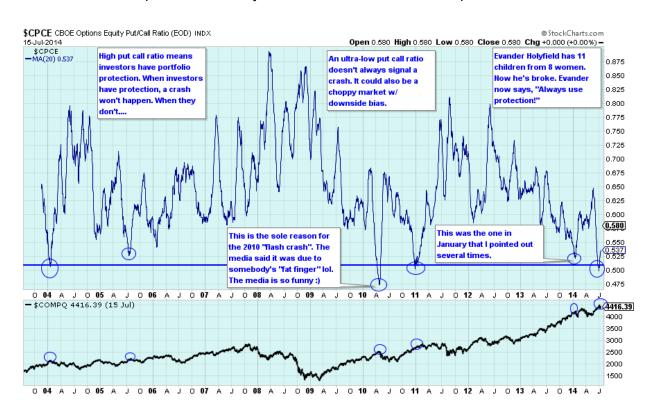








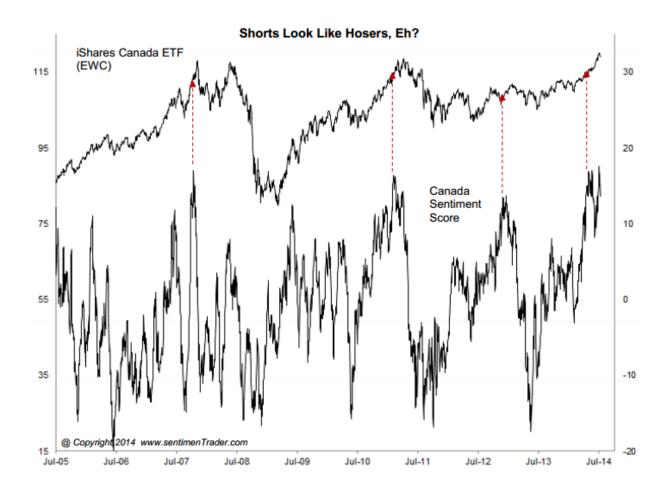
This is an old chart updated with today's data. The Put/Call ratio has put in its low.

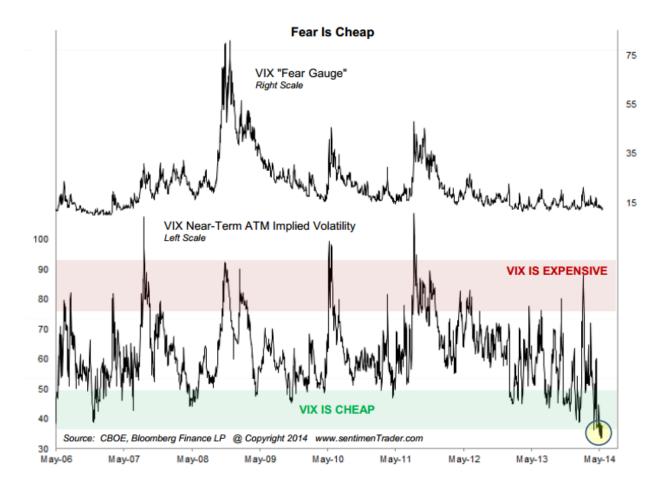






Canadian Sentiment from Sentimentrader.com





An article in respected financial magazine *Barron's* over the weekend generated a few questions because we'd discussed something similar recently.

The article, "How To Play The VIX Now", highlighted the fact that implied volatility on one-month at-the-money options on the VIX was among the lowest in history. That's options market jargon for "cheap".

When such an option has low implied volatility, it means that traders are pricing in a low probability for a big nearterm move either way.

Related to the *Barron's* article, consider the chart above. It shows the implied volatility of near-term at-the-money VIX options back as far as we can go, 8 years.

Of the 45 days that the figure had dropped below 45%, three months later the VIX was higher 42 times (93% of the time) with an average change of +21%. The three days that showed a decline in the VIX, in November 2006, soon reversed course and saw a higher VIX.

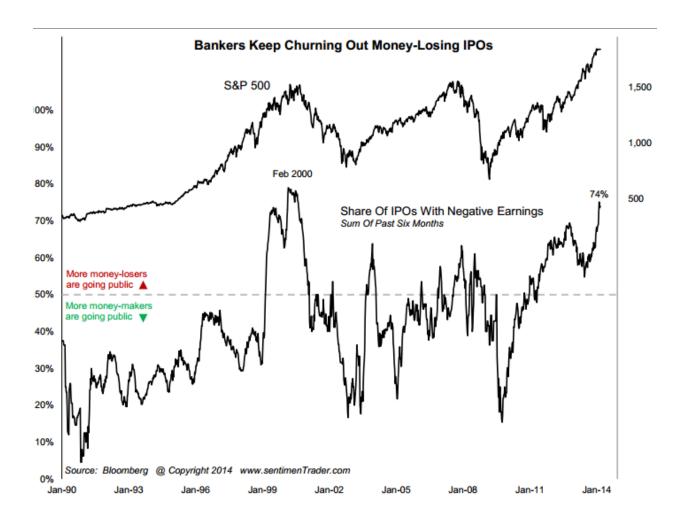
Even if we look at the 228 days when the implied volatility was less than 50%, three months later the VIX was higher

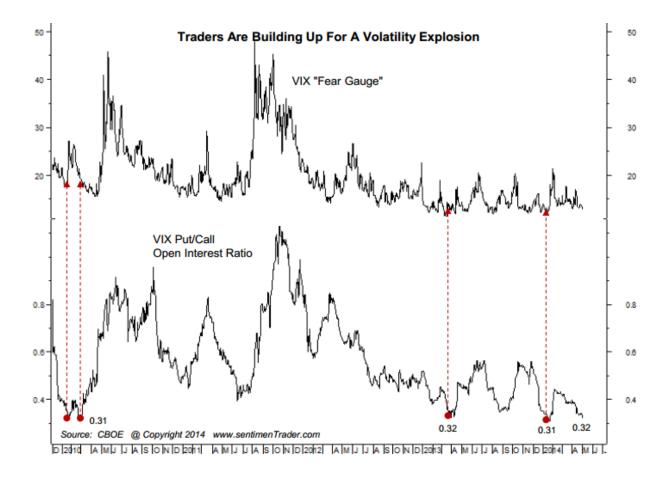
82% of the time by an average of +17%.

If you look to the far right of the chart at our current date, the implied volatility figure is outside the green band, lower than any other time in data's history. In other words, the VIX has never been cheaper.

At the opposite extreme, when fear became expensive, it didn't stay there for long. Of the 259 days that had an implied volatility reading of 75% or higher, three months later the VIX had increased even more only 8% of the time, and its average change was -24%.

Equities have managed to continually hit new highs and have thrown a lot of formerly consistent patterns out the window over the past 18 months, but if we manage to go another few months without seeing a spike in the VIX above 18 or so, it would truly be one of the market's more remarkable achievements to date.





On January 10, we discussed the VIX "fear gauge" and that it has become more difficult using that indicator as a measure of sentiment due to that fact that it can now be traded.

When something can be traded, it can be manipulated, intentionally or not, and becomes less pure as a read on what traders are actually doing with their money.

On the upside, the fact that options and futures and ETFs are now traded on the VIX means that we have more information on how traders are positioning themselves for volatility going forward.

One of those pieces of information is what we focused on in January. It measured the number of put options outstanding on the VIX versus the number of call options. At the time, the ratio was becoming skewed, showing that traders had opened a great many more call options than put options. Historically when they've done that, the VIX has spiked at some point in the months ahead, without losing too much beforehand.

It did so again. From the date of that report through early

February, the VIX jumped more than +76%. Since then, stocks have settled down and so have volatility expectations; the VIX is back down to 13%.

And now the call option traders are back.

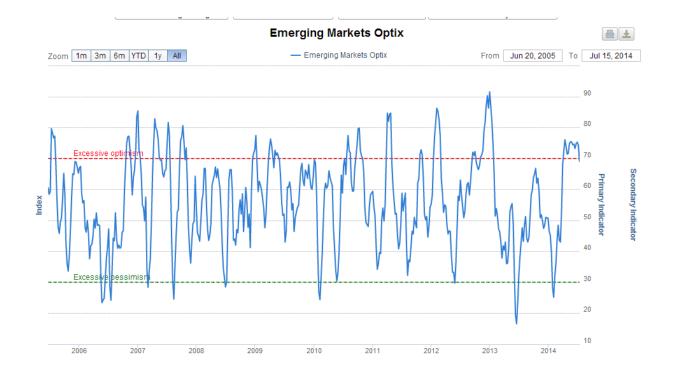
Over the past few days, the put/call open interest ratio has slipped under 0.33, meaning that for every 100 put options that traders have opened on the VIX, they have opened more than 300 call options. On the surface, this would suggest that they are expecting an uptick in volatility in the months ahead.

Based on what has happened before, they're likely to get it. When the open interest ratio was below 0.33, then over the next six months the VIX saw a spike of at least 50% after 75% of the days. At the other end of the spectrum, when the open interest ratio was above 0.75, then there was only an 18% chance of seeing the VIX jump by more than 50%.

The summer months tend to be relatively muted as volume ebbs, but the odds of a volatility spike between now and the end of summer have increased markedly.

Given the complacency in the Shanghai index, I would have expected extremely low bullishness from investors. Here is what we're seeing:





Ummm.....lowest fear ever heading into the crash months of August, September, and October?? I be buying fear hand-over-fist and stuffing it under my mattress!







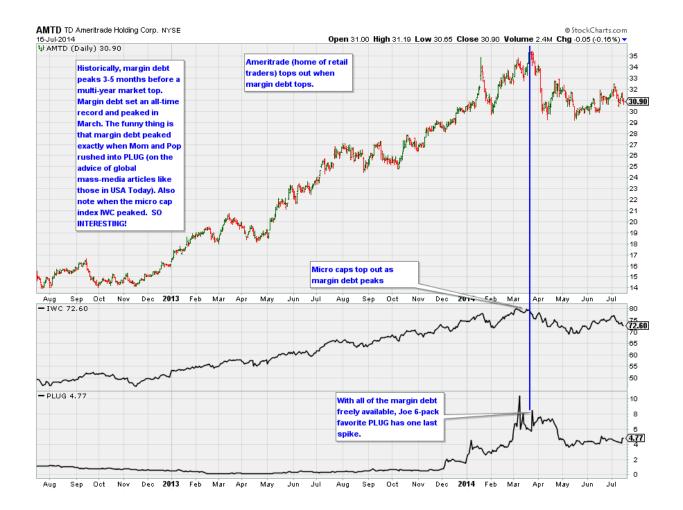












Good night and good luck everyone!

Jesse

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