INTERMARKET VIEW: Filter Bubble

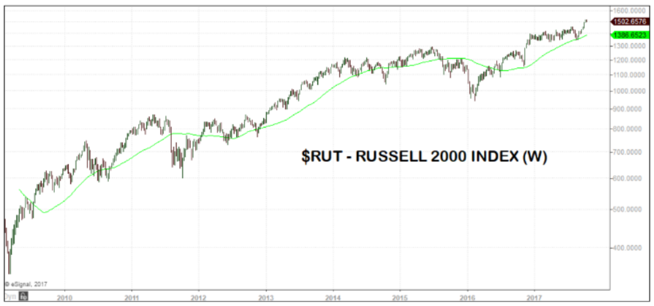
And lo and behold, the bulls took dominion over the earth, and every last bear was vanquished, and short sellers were converted to longs upon pain of death, and total faith in the infallible government managers of the USA and China spread all across the globe, even as those same managers were seen as incompetent to crush Bitcoin, though they declared their will to do so. And those who psychologically resisted were subjected to the pain of price, and markets rising up and up and up, until finally they cracked and admitted yes, it is true, market risk no longer exists, all shall go up forever, amen. But a few were double agents, long but only modestly so while watching the exits carefully, for they remembered the first dawn of Nasdaq 5,000, and how the mood had felt *exactly* the same, and what markets then did afterwards, the Nasdaq itself taking *fifteen years* to recover from its fall back to earth. Shorter version: The late great Barton Biggs once said that a bull market is like sex, it feels best just before it ends. If this isn't full-blown orgasmic euphoria we don't know what is. It is always the same, in a certain way, because on a superficial level the story is always different. That is why reports which argue tech stocks aren't bubble-valued completely miss the forest for the trees: Don't look for a new pets.com in other words, look at passive investor flows, or EM debt, or Bitcoin.

Bubbles are probably going to be even more intense in the information age. Why? Because of another kind of bubble, the "filter bubble" created by social media. In a filter bubble, brought to you by the likes of Facebook and Twitter and Google and YouTube, you see and hear whatever you prefer: Content that affirms your worldview or emotional state is readily delivered to you, while alternate points of view are wholly filtered out. This amounts to a form of rationalization on steroids, plus confirmation feedback loops, plus the enhanced effectiveness of sales pitches oriented to a belief system. The purity of concentration then makes it easier to cycle up emotional responsiveness. This makes it easier for charismatic shepherds to gather up large and zealous flocks.

Bitcoin seems to be a powerful and direct beneficiary of this. There is reportedly a direct link between the rise of Bitcoin and the frequency of Google searches, as more and more small investors tap into the bullish proliferation side of the argument. If last year saw the first truly weaponized social media and digital technology political outcomes, then Bitcoin may the first truly filter-bubbled asset bubble. Keeping top of mind here that Bitcoin and blockchain technologies aren't the same thing, that various powerful government entities have already taken steps to ban, restrict or crush Bitcoin, and that there will be plenty of future competitors (which may include central banks, advantaged by tax payment receipt).

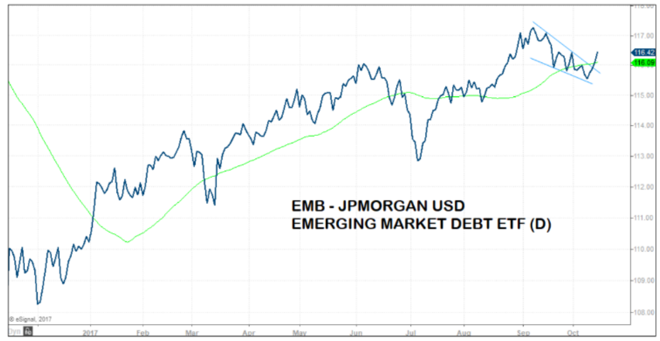
It is hard to find an emotionally satisfying response to a true bubble mentality, because the bubble riders look like they're having so much fun. The valuation arguments that underpin a bubble fall between ridiculous and crazy, the holes either hand-wavingly dismissed or completely ignored. It is often the case that a rational sounding premise exists, but said premise is used to support a nutty conclusion (which is really just a reverse-engineered justification for the crazy price). To give an example, *"Tom Brady is the best quarterback in NFL history"* is an arguably rational premise, whether or not one agrees; there is evidence to be martialed and a case to be made. To say, however, *"Tom Brady is the best quarterback in NFL history, which means he is worth $500 million a year,"* is to do a bait-and-switch: The rational premise attaches to a cuckooland conclusion. When you want to justify any type of price move whatsoever, this is usually the way to do it: Come up with a plausible argument or two, then take the current price and work backwards. True believers, of course, will take this all the way to Neptune: Wences Cesares, the CEO of a Bitcoin wallet company called Xapo, has predicted Bitcoin will reach $1 million. Sure! *But hey, why not a billion?* Crazy is like infinity, the amount of crazy can double or triple and yet it's still the same non-quantifiable entity. Meanwhile the rationalizations and logic underpinnings can sound deeply enticing, separate as they are from any meaningful sense of what the risks are or what a thing should logically be worth.

A metaphorical narrative for a big asset bubble is the modern day poker tournament, which is arguably something like 25% skill and 75% luck (versus cash games where the numbers are reversed). In tournaments a few punters are destined to be blessed by the gods… the more aggression they display the better (risk control has no place when it's "all or nothing")… the volatility gets bigger and wilder, to the point of going full vertical, in the final stages… and the game looks oh so fun... oh, and as with a modern day poker tournament, the reliable gains in a bubble go to the house, not the players. Roughly 10% of the participating field will see winnings — while the rest fall somewhere between losing a little and losing a lot.

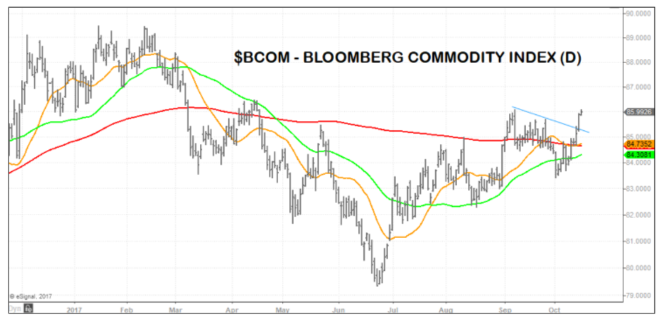


The major US indices are now marching higher in lockstep. There are no laggards to fuel signs of concern. It now appears there are no bears left anywhere. A weekly survey conducted by the National Association of Active Investment Managers discovered that, among a group of money managers ranked "most skeptical," with historically heavy net short positions over a more than ten-year period, the average exposure level had shifted to more than 90 percent long. Bears turned bulls.

Emerging markets have broken out to new highs, with EEM at an interesting level on its long-term chart. Global equity funds saw record levels of inflow in the past week, appetite for emerging markets going strong, as Asian equities hit ten year highs. Meanwhile the junk-bond boom, EM countries increasingly borrowing in dollars, is spreading all around the world. *"Bankers say they expect emerging markets to sell tens of billions of dollars in additional junk bonds by year-end,"* the WSJ reports. Speculative-grade bond issuance in the developing world has already hit a new record, the WSJ notes, up 60% from 2016 levels. The average yield has fallen to the lowest on record, 5.53%, where it was 9% two years ago. Frenzied yield-chasing has vanquished all manners of risk, from repayment risk to geopolitical risk to currency and interest rate risk. Concerns for risk have now ceased to exist.



The USD Emerging Market Debt ETF (EMB) is a key "canary in the coal mine" to watch for signs of trouble – as of now, EMB has shaken off its wedge decline and broken out again to the upside (along with virtually every other risk asset out there).



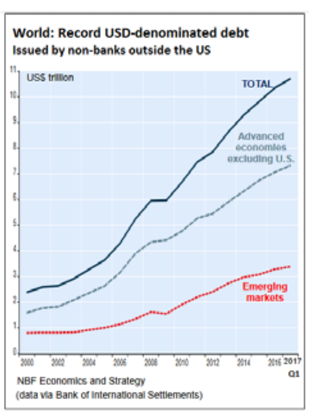
The Bloomberg Commodity Index also looks to be bottoming out, thrusting above its 200 day moving average (red line) for the first time in many months. Crude oil fights to maintain a toehold above $50 per barrel, base metals now rebounding.

Gold seems unable to make up its mind: Break out and run higher? Fall back into the range? Break out yet again? There is a sense of confliction and uncertainty with gold, but this too makes a certain kind of sense. Gold is supposed to gain when the dollar is profoundly weak, but on the other hand, the triumph of central banks and disappearance of volatility are not really gold-favoring narratives: Gold is to be owned when monetary policy is going badly wrong and the future is a concern, not when the mood is so aggressively Goldilocks and Pollyanna it almost makes one's teeth hurt. We continue to see potential in gold and gold stocks, but probably not 'til the other side of the cycle – when this tail-end-of-the-tail-end "everything is perfect" grand finale debt spasm expires.

MACRO VIEW: Caligula on the Potomac

The market is ignoring the risks of the Trump administration in a grand and spectacular fashion. The clear refusal to show any type of concern is almost a form of gaslighting, as if stock market behavior and asset pricing had become another form of *dezinformatsiya*, a term for deliberate misinformation. As the USA edges closer to the possibility of nuclear exchange, NAFTA heads for the scrap heap, the Federal Reserve gets ready to hike interest rates and reduce the size of its balance sheet, the Republican agenda turns out be a trainwreck (no infrastructure, no healthcare reform, almost certainly no real chance of tax reform either), and the White House heads for a constitutional crisis (via Mueller fallout) in the aftermath of growing awareness that the 2016 election was compromised beyond all reasonable measure, stock valuations yet persist at superbubble levels, behind only the lofty peaks of 1929 and 2000. With a metaphorical slate of financial, political and geopolitical hurricanes and wildfires on the horizon, there is a market forecast of blue skies and calm waters as far as the eye can see. And the true gaslighting aspect, the real messing with one's head part of it all, is perhaps not even valuations so much as the lack of volatility – with the major US indices rising higher with a placidity almost never seen, not even in the best of the past good years, and with volatility levels now at their sleepiest and most withdrawn in fifty-plus years (you have to go all the way back to 1965 for comparable calm). Up is down, crazy is sane, we are seeing "Dr. Strangelove" play out in real time, and Mr. Market is high as a kite on valium.

If you assume that markets have a duty and an obligation to take future risks into account, it makes no bloody sense. But as we have noted before, if you recognize that all academic theories which portray the market as a responsible arbiter of value and discounter of risks are high-minded bullshit, it then makes perfect sense. This is a result of the fact that massive amounts of liquidity tend to trump all risk factors (no pun intended). A profoundly weak US dollar has been a market godsend in liquidity terms. As the chart at right shows, via BIS and Wolfstreet, the total amount of USD-denominated non-bank debt outside the US now approaches $11 trillion. A weak USD makes such loans even more attractive, and the more loans of this type we see, the more lubricant there is to grease the gears of the global economy. Just this past week China issued yet more billions in US dollar denominated loans, in part because… why not?



The world's primary funding currencies, also known as "carry trade" currencies, are the US dollar and Japanese yen. With an ability to borrow cheaply in USD or yen, the funds can be reinvested elsewhere – in Japanese equities, or an emerging market infrastructure project, or who knows what. The yen is a perennial carry trade favorite, but as the world's reserve currency, cheap and abundant dollars are even better. This is one of the reasons why we are dismissive of the breathless praise for synchronized global growth: That growth is a result of super-cheap financing, leverage built on top of leverage, by way of investor-provided liquidity amplified by currency impacts. Virtually any business, or economy, can expand its top-line revenues with sufficient borrowing and spending. An improvement in bottom-line profit and productivity levels is a different story. As such, when President Trump takes credit for record-high stock market levels against a failure backdrop of diplomacy chaos and zero legislative accomplishments, in a way he could never comprehend he is actually correct: The bizarre environment we see now is, in significant part, a gift to financiers by way of the weakness of the US dollar, a side effect of the USA permanently giving up stability and stature.

In 1997 the Asian financial crisis, remembered as the "Asian contagion" due to fears of global meltdown, kicked off with a currency collapse in Thailand. The Thai government, which had borrowed heavily in US dollars, was so up to its neck in foreign debt the country was effectively bankrupt, and thus a floating of the currency, the Thai baht, was a forced option. This is what's broadly known as "printing your way out" of a debt crisis, except the collapse of Thailand's currency spread chaos all throughout the region, due to the proliferation of not just governments but private debtors who had borrowed in expensive dollars. Then too, in 1998, our first year sitting behind a terminal, we recall seeing the Japanese yen go into vertical ascent mode, rocketing straight up for hours upon end without stopping, as giant hedge funds that had heavily shorted the Japanese yen (to invest the proceeds elsewhere) were faced with non-negotiable margin calls. Point being, a stupid-happy borrowing binge in cheap currency, to fund an ever-rising cycle of goldilocks growth, has happened before, and the ending was ugly as hell. We suspect that the reason Mr. Market is now acting as detached from present reality as a junkie blissed out on heroin is because he is, in fact, a junkie blissed out on heroin – except his heroin is liquidity, funded to various degree by complacency, passive investing, and the fruits of the USD and yen carry trade. Such is most likely the reason we see the market now behaving like the cartoon dog saying "this is fine" as the house burns down all around him. Instead of making an accurate assessment of reality, there is a powerful and dangerous controlled substance involved.

But returning to the mentally unstable, bizarrely random and increasingly vicious dementia patient occupying the White House, whose election was a result of both interference from a hostile foreign power and a gross failure of imagination (as to the obvious risks), morality and decency on the part of 63 million irresponsible Americans: It'd be a dangerous mistake to assume that, just because Mr. Market has wholly ignored Trumpian risks so far, he'll be able to keep on ignoring them completely. The severe political and geopolitical risks of the Trump presidency are now elevating dangerously, like water levels prior to a levee breach. And if the US dollar too (that great liquidity provider) begins to rise, as risk appetite wanes or Trump damage vectors hit home, Mr. Market could yet be sent into the throes of cold turkey liquidity withdrawal, like a screaming junkie on a jail cell floor. If this happens, the crash mechanisms will be as old as the hills – one could make reference not just to 1997 but 1907. The liquidity giveth, and then suddenly and frightfully, the liquidity can taketh away.

The year 2017 has been one of extraordinary mass delusion, and not just in the United States. Over in Europe for instance, Brexit is well on track to becoming a train wreck of such awful proportions there are almost no words to describe it. And yet it is only a few calm-voiced observers at the margins, versed in both economics and the realities of cause and effect, now saying: *"You know, this is going to be horrible. Epically so."* In America, it seems roughly half of Americans have gone ahead and embraced the delusion, while the other half (along with most of the world) openly wonders whether the USA has lost its damn mind. In Republican-controlled Washington there is a sharp-eyed expediency to embracing delusion, or at least appearing to do this, with a critical mass of spineless, gutless politicians deciding to, rather than lead constituents in the direction of their best interests, placate their worst instincts. But then, lo and behold, a high profile senator (and one time Trump supporter) was freed from the shackles of needing to run for re-election, and the scales thus fell from his eyes. We speak here of Bob Corker, the white-haired Republican senator from Tennessee, a man not known for hyperbole, who also heads up the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. As you have almost certainly heard, Senator Corker, besides openly questioning President Trump's levels of "stability and competence," has called the White House an "adult day care center" and, quite deliberately and on the record, declared his belief that President Trump could be putting the USA, and the world, on a "path to World War III." Corker then rounded out his honesty tour-de-force by saying most all Republicans understand these dangers in private, only a few pretending to believe otherwise. Let us stop and reflect for a moment on how "Twilight Zone" this is: The leader of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a serious and sober man, declaring the president and leader of his own party to be a nut with nukes.

The Twilight Zone feeling intensifies with Corker's assertion that his party *knows full well* the president is both dangerous and unstable, and yet chooses to do nothing about it. There are additional reports, which have a ring of credibility to their logic, that Republicans at this point are clinging to hopes of tax reform like a drowning man clutching a hunk of driftwood after a shipwreck. *"Get tax reform through, and hope like hell the president doesn't do anything too insane before then."* If Republican-controlled Washington fails at tax reform, along with everything else, the party's support could vanish. Their wealthy donors, frustrated by zero legislative progress, are already closing their checkbooks. Steve Bannon, meanwhile, is spearheading a kind of nihilist neo-Tea-Party movement on the Republicans' right flank. Bannonites are an added danger point in that the ideological media complex doesn't actually *need* policy formation or even electoral victory to achieve its chief aims: It simply needs to stoke rage and chaos, in order to turn righteous outrage into clicks, likes, and media dollars. The Republican establishment might, in fact, better serve its rabid media wing by falling apart, as it is far easier to howl at the moon as the minority opposition. As such, like the awful villain Ramsay Bolton in *Game of Thrones*, Republicans are now in danger of being eaten alive by their own hounds. And they know this, hence their terror of paying heed to Corker and being realistic about Trump, to a potentially fatal cost.

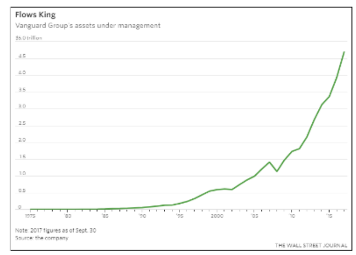
Markets can continue ignoring all this, abetted in part by the *dezinformatsiya* of the rising market itself (partisans with no sense of causation pointing at the Dow and saying *Whee!*). But in the real world, where real events of real consequence continue to play out, the risks continue to build in a manner that will, at some point, shatter all willful delusions. Take the current trajectory of NAFTA negotiations for example, where the vandalization of the longstanding North American Free Trade Agreement could destroy hundreds of thousands of US jobs, while chaotically disrupting a continental supply chain that is thousands of miles long. Or consider the presidential awfulness in store as pressure from the Mueller inquiry, and the very strong likelihood of tax reform failure, increases the president's impulse toward increasingly wild and destructive actions that "please the base" but wreak havoc elsewhere. If one finds the risks of nuclear exchange or constitutional crisis too much of a creative stretch to imagine, an exaggerated impulse towards pissing off allies and touching off trade wars should be easier to assimilate. Given a total lack of palatable options regarding North Korea (and the total embarrassment of "fire and fury" bluster), the next move for a president who is constantly "fuming" or "seething" or "furious" is possibly to direct his fury (with a base-pleasing angle) at China, with fallout implications too serious for the market to ignore. The kicker to this warning is that Trump's destructiveness may hit markets hard even as the liquidity high starts to wear off.

TACTICAL VIEW: The Kid Ain't Alright

There stands a general attitude that if the price of everything is going up, then somehow everything must be fine. There are serious problems with this viewpoint. Market history and basic logic reveal these problems. To begin, a market that is rising in complete lockstep is not a good thing for long-term investors, and it is not a good thing for prudent speculators either. The reasons why are different but compelling in each case. For the long-term investors, if price gains are built on a foundation of sand, the ultimate cost is pleasure now, severe pain later. Passive investors, pleased to see account values drip, drip higher along with the market, are expected to hold fast to their investments for twenty years, thirty years, or even longer. Institutional investors, like US pension funds still underfunded to a tune of trillions, also have liabilities which stretch out for decades. For these long-term players, putting all the pleasure up front, via artificial means, is like creating a sugar rush in the body. The rush can feel intoxicating, but the body's natural response is a defensive flood of insulin, which then causes energy levels to crash. This is not good for anyone, except those who catch the crash, and it will have a particularly negative impact on the passive investor psyche in general. If a passive investor wishes to commit to a lifetime of disciplined retirement investing, the ideal is to not have expectations set too high, and not have the jarring volatility episodes be too painful. The current setup has produced the exact opposite conditions. The passive investor class has now learned through experience that investing is wholly pain free, and on the other side of the cycle, they will be subjected to years of bone-rattling downside volatility that will at times feel like the wings are coming off the plane. From a long-term returns perspective, this is the worst way to go about things.

The prudent speculator has a different challenge, evidenced by the compressed returns for the great macro traders these past few years, a few of them having hung up their spurs and retired rather than wait out the end of the cycle. One of the things a skilled speculator excels at, great investors too for that matter, is assessing various levels of reward-versus-risk across different opportunities and different markets. When a liquidity tide pushes all valuations toward the extreme end of the rationalization curve, deep into outlier areas, markets start to morph into one giant blob of non-differentiated risk. The more that liquidity and generalized euphoria come into play, the more that one factor – liquidity – tends to dominate everything else, and as such the more that all other factors, including the ones that normally make for price discounting and probability adjustments the speculator can get a handle on, are instead swamped by the top line factor, which in turn has the ability to reverse itself at any point. The opportunity set in these conditions shrinks, as risk permeates everything.

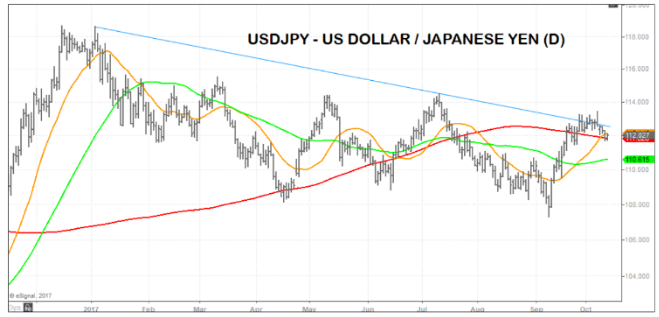
Another way to look at the problem is that speculators, poker players and value investors all benefit to a high degree from their opponents making mistakes – errors in judgement as to the likelihood of a scenario outcome, the underlying value of an asset, and so on. But when you really get the liquidity run cranking, there is a window of time where nobody makes any mistakes at all, because the only mistake is going short. There is an ability to participate, but only cautiously, because of the increased risks of the whole shebang going into reverse gear as the trend ages and the euphoric excesses grow extreme.



The chart at right, showing the trajectory of passive assets under management for Vanguard, the indexing king, captures the essence of the thing. That kink you see in the curve was made by the 2008 financial crisis; the global central bank experiment that followed (and which is still ongoing) fueled the parabolic rise, as passive investors absorbed the lesson that market risk no longer exists. There is a relationship between the vertical takeoff characteristics of a parabolic move, and the detachment from reality which occurs as a result, and shows up in ways that are detectable as markets start behaving strangely. If the parents of a high achieving teenager observe that he is still getting straight A's and handling multiple extracurricular activities, but his day-to-day personality has taken on a manic tinge and he appears to only sleep a few hours a night, or not sleep for days at a time, they will look past the surface-level good performance and intuit that something is wrong. In similar fashion, when you have a market appearing to get straight A's but behaving strangely in subtle and bizarre ways, it's reasonable to worry about drugs, especially when one already has a pretty good idea what the drug is, with knowledge that central bankers are going to be taking it away soon. Looking at justifications for why everything is fine also reveals a circular logic wheel that collapses in on itself. If valuations are justified by super low interest rates, for example, then valuations should fall as things go back to "normal," causing interest rates to rise. But if no forecast exists for things going back to normal, then it is impossible to argue that everything is fine. The conditions that have fueled a quiet euphoria (on the passive front) and a flood of liquidity are, by definition, temporary, to be taken away when the global economy gets healthy again. But if the global economy lacks an ability to get healthy again, causing an ongoing commitment to low rates and stimulus, there are even deeper problems to worry about. The logic doesn't add up because logic isn't present – it's the tail end of the rush.

We have a strong interest in currencies right now, seconded by gold and gold stocks, because these could be transmission mechanisms when the system comes apart. Think of a series of pipes and boilers in a complex plumbing network, various areas of pressure building up inside the network. The global central banks are good at controlling interest rates, and they can suppress volatility in asset markets for as long as investor psychology plays along. But currency markets are historically the great white whale – the market that is ultimately too big for governments to permanently control. Episodes like the Asian currency crisis in 1997, and the breaking of the pound in 1992, and the massive surge of the US dollar in the midst of the global financial crisis – the US dollar gained 20 percent against its peers, an absolutely staggering move for a major currency, in less than six months in 2008 – all represented the sudden failure of existing government policy regimes. It is also not a matter of which market ones likes best, looking at, say, stocks versus forex, but rather where the opportunity is present and where it is not. Opportunity comes and goes from asset classes like surfing wave conditions on the world's great beaches. A beach can shift from low opportunity into high opportunity, and stay that way for a long time, and then the deeper tides shift and the opportunity heads elsewhere.

On the currency front we had two positions trigger long last week, both against the New Zealand dollar. New Zealand is one of our favorite countries in the world, and easily one of the most beautiful spots on earth (think Lord of the Rings), but something big is potentially happening with its currency, as evidenced by the Aussie and Canuck putting in potential multi-year bottoms against it. There is more digging to do in regard to this idea, but if NZ is newly wrestling with populist sentiments after a run of good times, a shift makes sense.



Another recent currency idea, not yet triggered, is long dollar yen (USDJPY), which rises as the dollar strengthens against the yen (or the yen weakens versus the USD). USDJPY retook its 200 day moving average recently (red line), and is close to a trend breakout after struggling all year. More importantly, USDJPY is an idea that can work in multiple ways. The dollar could strengthen against the yen even if the liquidity mania continues, by way of the Federal Reserve adding pressure via interest rate hikes. Or, alternatively, if the euphoria wears off or is jolted away by a geopolitical scare, the dollar could spike via liquidity contraction and "short squeeze" – that is what a funding currency does in sudden crisis – sending the dollar sharply higher. (The yen might also feel upward pressure in a risk-off event, but the dollar is presently far more oversold.) Then too, there is the alarmingly bad demographics outlook for Japan's giant low-to-negative-interest debt pile, and the shock of what happens when net savers become spenders. (Nobody is left to buy Japanese government debt, which the central bank then monetizes to save the economy from a full-on collapse in JGB prices, thus turning the yen into confetti.)

We also added to Newmont Mining (NEM), our bluechip gold stock long, and have orders in for other potential gold stocks (and gold itself). We have been ambivalent towards gold all year, in part because the price action has been so spotty. But the case remains for scenarios in which gold, an "alternative currency" of sorts, benefits from central banks losing control. If volatility is almost permanently suppressed and a low rate regime is kept in place far longer, for example, one scenario is a build-up of inflation pressures that everybody pretends doesn't exist, even as gold renews its role as a credit default swap against bankers (and gold stocks catch on and go crazy).

PENDING POSITIONS

Bull / Bear	Ticker(s)	Vehicle / Area / Industry Group	Description / Strategy	Analysis PDF Links
LONG	USDJPY	US dollar / Japanese yen	The USD could gain a rate hike edge on the yen, or rocket higher against all comers on a short squeeze.	**10-12-17**
LONG	IAG, GFI	Gold stocks	Bullish patterns for two individual gold stocks as GDX looks ambiguous but shows strong scenario potential.	**10-05-17**
LONG	GLD, GC	Gold	Potential for upside followthrough on breakout and North Korea tensions.	**09-26-17**

CURRENT POSITIONS

Long/ Short	Ticker(s)	Vehicle / Area / Industry Group	Description / Strategy	Analysis PDF Links
LONG	NEM	Blue chip gold stocks	Add-on to NEM position on strong weekly pattern, long-term potential for blue chip gold stocks.	**09-25-17** **08-14-17**
LONG	AUDNZD CADNZD	Australian, Canadian v. NZD	Long-term breakout potential vs the New Zealand dollar on weekly charts, NZ populism issues.	**09-26-17**
LONG	XLE, OIH	Energy and oil service ETFs	Energy stocks have potential for bullish rotation as bulls show strength and crude oil rises above $50.	**09-28-17**
SHORT	XLP	Consumer Staples ETF	Moderate short position as consumer staples face threats on at least three different fronts.	**09-01-17**
SHORT	IBM	Int'l Business Machines	Starter short position on break of current sideways congestion resuming downtrend, IBM getting beaten in aggressive cloud battles.	**07-20-17** **06-21-17**
LONG	TAN	Guggenheim solar ETF	Moderate long position from breakout with add-on. Boom-bust solar industry capturing imaginations as solar shows potential for waterfall expansion uptake.	**SIR 150** **06-23-17** **06-14-17**
LONG	EURJPY	Euro currency / Japanese yen forex pair	Sizable position, moderate starter plus multiple add-ons as Europe sees investor capital flows and yen is treated as a funding currency in a bullish backdrop.	**09-12-17** **08-24-17** **06-16-17** **06-09-17** **06-02-17**