

THE NAVIGATOR

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January 20, 2023



Woodstock

We are stardust, we are golden
We are billion-year-old carbon
And we got to get ourselves
Back to the garden

It's hard to believe that in 1969 Crosby, Stills, & Nash were conscious of their carbon footprint, but it sounds like they were! <u>Woodstock</u> was a song my parents used to crank at max volume in the car and sing together. I knew every word by the time I was eight. <u>Woodstock</u> and many other CSNY tunes were on our college "porch party" cassette mixes. Nothing reminds me that the wheels of time are spinning at light speed than when another great American songwriter passes. I was a heavy metalhead as a kid, so never a huge fan of Crosby, Stills & Nash, but they're one of those bands that you must appreciate the massive mark their body of work left on our culture. What would American music be without <u>Southern Cross</u>, <u>Helpless</u>, <u>Down by the River</u>, <u>Teach Your Children</u>, and <u>Suite Judy Blue Eyes</u>? Songs about peace and Americana. I shudder to think so rest in peace David Crosby.

Turning to the markets, earnings season has thrown an added layer of volatility to the tape. Alcoa CEO Roy Harvey said he sees China demand improving on their loosened Covid policy. He expects the aluminum market to be balanced in 2023 and inventories to remain near historic low levels.

Alcoa's earnings report sent the sell-side scurrying with Citi raising their PT to \$55 from \$45. BMO cut their PT from \$55 to \$50. B. Riley Scott remains neutral. Last sale is \$50, so it's clear the bean counters have no idea wtf to do next. Luckily, we know the stock and the sector (XME) are trying to break free from moving average resistance and how to play it if the opportunity arises.

Here on the Navigator, we're trying to pair this Alcoa breakout with the LME aluminum breakout because the dollar has decidedly changed its tune in 2023. The low inventory story combined with the transition to electric battery power story should keep metals & mining in play for years to come. If this breakout in AA and aluminum are real, which I believe them to be, then BOTH will hold moving average support and resume their rally. I'm going to add Alcoa to the radar screen. If we can get into the name on a slight pullback between \$47 and \$48, risking \$44 – I'm going to consider it.





get into the hame on a signification between \$17 and \$10, fishing \$11. This going to consider it.

Schlumberger was a different story. At the center of the oil services explosion, Schlumberger shows everyone what's up. They beat Q4 expectations handily with .74C earnings on \$7.9B in revenue. Adjusted Q4 margins



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were at 24.4% versus 23.9% expected. They raised their dividend to \$0.25c per share from \$0.175 per share. CEO <u>Olivier Le Peuch</u> (what a name!) sees "<u>VERY STRONG GROWTH AND MARGIN EXPANSION</u>" in 2023.

Le Peuch simply reiterates why his stock was up 37% in 2021 and 79% in 2022 and led the oil services industry etf (OIH) to a 65% gain last year. If Schlumberger seems poised to do something in that leadership category again, trust your instincts. I'm not long any oil services companies, but



we're watching the sector like hawks as it pertains to our E&P and refiner bullishness, and I may pounce on a good entry opportunity.

Stocks are down this week, giving back a portion of the first two week's gains. The S&P is sitting on 50/100dma support, with 200dma resistance above, up 1.5% on the year, trying to decide which way the wind blows. I think she may traverse positive and negative territory over and over for the next 12 months and go nowhere fast. The Treasury curve has gone into the abyss, the trend in rates is still UP, and I don't trust the equity leadership at all this year. Airlines are up 16%, and social media is up 12% on the year. It doesn't seem sustainable, and I'm just waiting for Big Tech to fail resistance and resume its trend lower.

The dollar index is up 20 basis points on the week, but price action is still terrible below the moving averages. Yields are off their highs with that better-than-expected PPI print on the board, but they're just grazing moving average support as a matter of bull market dynamics. I don't expect the TREND in yields to change. I expect structural inflation to take over late in the first or maybe the second quarter.

Commodities (BCOM) are up 40 basis points on the week. Oil is up 1%, and street fighting through huge inventory builds. The curve is still backwardated, with sections of "kinky contango" [← HIT THAT PODCAST, that's my inaugural OIL GROUND UP podcast with Roaring Rory Johnston.] The 3-2-1 crack spread, diesel, and jet fuel are visibly testing breakout levels. They're a few basis points from confirming that they've broken through, and I like their momentum. As I tweeted yesterday, the Crack Spread Chart is a Picasso, likely about to explode. For energy traders, there's nothing more liberating than diesel fuel going "blue sky," and we're only a couple of percent away.

Even with a 20 basis point rally in the dollar, metals are hanging tough this week which is a good sign. From iron ore to aluminum, to gold, silver, and copper, they're either side of or within a 1% change on the week. That dynamic is leaking through to the equity rotation where E&P and natural resources (XLE, IGE) are off less than 1% on the week while industrials, homebuilders, solar, consumer staples, aerospace & defense, utilities, and cannabis are off more than 3% each.

Two fed officials joined my view that interest rates need to rise above 5%. Bullard said we should lean on the high side to avoid a 70s replay because he knows that Fed Funds where they are now will do nothing to combat 6% or 7% CPI. Like us, he knows inflation, due to the attack on supply, is structural and not likely to dip back toward 2% any time soon.

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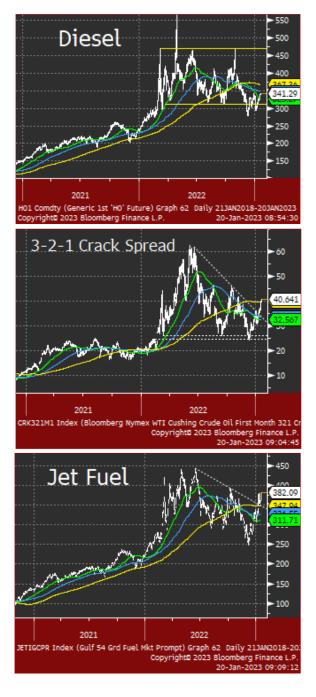
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That completes our picture and gets us ready for today's trading day. The S&P is going to rotate in fits and starts.

NOTHING IS LINEAR. We just observed that Wednesday's outside reversals across the natural resources complex were not fatal.

I will try to keep racking up percentage PnL points and trading with no emotion. So far so good. Ready, BREAK.





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VIEW MATRIX

AA will be added to the Radar Screen Monday.

VIEW MATRIX								Т	HE PNL:	49.6%
LONG	TICKER	ENTRY	REASON	ALL BETS ARE OFF	TARGET	Ent	ry/Mark	L	ast Sale	Performance
Energy	USO	18-Jan-23	Oil bull	< \$68	\$100	\$	70.59	\$	70.59	0.00%
Crypto	XET	13-Jan-23	Chart breakout	< \$1250	\$2,000	\$1	,400.00	\$	1,553.07	10.93%
Metals & Mining	XME	9-Jan-23	Copper Breakout	< \$48.50	\$75	\$	52.87	\$	54.60	3.27%
E&P	*XLE	14-Oct-22	Breakout.	< \$80.50	\$100	\$	91.42	\$	89.59	-2.00%
Refiners	*MPC	15-Jun-22	Elevated crack spreads.	< \$108	\$130	\$	117.65	\$	123.23	4.74%
Gold	*PHYS	24-Mar-20	CURRENCY HEDGE/INSURANCE POLICY	COLLECTORS	FOR LIFE	\$	12.97	\$	14.96	15.34%
SHORT	TICKER	Added	REASON	ALL BETS ARE OFF	TARGET					Performance
Technology	HACK	20-Dec-22	Adding a tech short	> \$46	\$35	\$	44.36	\$	43.22	2.57%
RADAR										
BULLISH	gold miners, refiners, E&P, SLB, HAL, BTU, XLU, URA, XBT									
BEARISH	Technol	Technology, Homebuilders, Retail								



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All right - I got something to say Yeah, it's better to burn out Than fade away

- Joe Elliot

January 20, 1983 was the day Def Leppard released *Pyromania*. Their 3rd album was produced by Mutt Lange, made it to #2 on the Billboard chart, and was the first with new guitar player Phil Collen who replaced founding guitarist Pete Willis who drank too much.



Rise up, gather round
Rock this place to the ground
Burn it up, let's go for broke
Watch the night go up in smoke
Rock of Ages, Def Leppard #EVERYROCKPLAYLIST

"I remember meeting Phil Lynott. We'd delivered *Pyromania* and, with us sharing a label with Lizzy, he'd heard it. He put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'I heard your album – it's the reason I've split the band. I can't compete with that.' The crappiest backhand compliment I've ever had. I wish I had been brave enough to shove him up against the wall and say, 'Well, make a better album then!' But I just said, 'Oh,' and scuttled off." – Joe Elliot



PHOTOGRAPH

Pyromania includes *Photograph, Rock of Ages,* and *Foolin*, which all made it to the Top 40, and *Too Late for Love*, which is no slouch.

Rock on, rock on
Drive me crazier
No serenade, no fire brigade
Just the pyromania, come on

Sandwiched between *High n' Dry* (1981) and *Hysteria* (1987) - *Pyromania* boasted some of Def Leppard's finest work. Innit.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	HAPPY NEW YEAR	3	4	5	6	7
8	°	10	"	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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