

Zaner Group

Success in Financial Services Since 1980

2009 New Year's Resolutions for Futures Traders

As we begin 2009, we present our fourth annual **Resolutions** for experienced and prospective futures traders.

1. Read a book.

Of course, we're not referring to the latest Grisham or Patterson thriller. We're talking about something market oriented. And as opposed to the usual slew of "trading secrets revealed" and "how-to-make-a million-with-my-system" type of book, we've decided to highlight a business biography of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Past, Present and Futures: Chicago Mercantile Exchange; by Jeffrey Rodengen (2008)

Past, Present and Futures celebrates the rich history of the CME and its innovative contributions to the futures industry. The book spans the Exchange's 1919 incorporation through the landmark merger of CME and the Chicago Board of Trade in 2007.

2. Enjoy a Film Night with movies with a Trading Theme.

What could be better on a winter night than watching a flick about trading? In previous Resolutions, we've featured such classics as *Trading Places*, *Wall Street* and *Limit Up*. This year our picks are *Rogue Trader* and *Traders*.

Rogue Trader is the true story of Nick Leeson, Barings Bank's trading floor manager at the SIMEX (Singapore Monetary Exchange). Using Baring's money to trade his own account, Leeson racks up losses exceeding 800 million pounds, forcing the investment house into bankruptcy.

Traders was a dramatic television series which ran from 1995-2000. The series focused on the business and personal affairs of the fictional investment banking firm of Gardner Ross. The cast of characters included the head trader making money through short-term risky trades, the brilliant but disturbed derivatives and the head currency trader from a Mennonite-like background.

Transactions in futures, options, & forex carry a high degree of risk. Traders can and do lose money.

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3. **Get a jump on your taxes and make a resolution to lower your tax bill.**

Are you taking advantage of all the deductions you are entitled to as a trader? Do you know when personal expenses can be converted into deductible business expenses? Does your accountant understand Section 1256?

Firms such as Traders Accounting and Green Trader Tax specialize in tax preparation for futures, FX and securities traders. Don't wait until April 15. Read more about the services these firms offer at the Third Party Tools section of the Zaner.com website (http://www.zaner.com/3.0/market_information/thirdparty.html).

4. **Resolve to learn to navigate the new CME Group and ICE websites**

Just a few weeks ago the ICE completely re-did their website. The address is still www.theice.com; and incorporates ICE Futures US, Europe and Canada. Starting on January 9, the old www.cme.com and www.cbots.com websites get decommissioned and replaced by www.cmegroup.com

Create a scavenger hunt for yourself on these two websites. How easily can you locate:

- The January 2, 2009 trading volume for the March E-mini S&P?
- What is the tick size for the mini Russell 2000 contract?
- When is First Notice Day for May 2009 Coffee?
- The link to CME Group's Dynamics of Foreign Exchange online class?
- The initial margin requirement for 5 Year T-Note futures?

5. **Set aside time to play a board game with your family**

(and at the same time, teach them about trading)

In last year's Resolutions we highlighted Limit Up (The Willem Co.). For 2009 it's Pit, from Parker Brothers.

The rules are simple: Deal the cards, wait for the opening bell, scream and trade like crazy and try to be the first to corner a specific market and ring the closing bell. A true family game, for ages 7 and up. (Warning: Jumping up and down, waiving your hands wildly and shouting may induce your children to move to Chicago and become floor traders!!)

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6. Make the Resolution to visit the Zaner websites daily!

At www.zaner.com and our data-application www.markethead.com, you'll find links to daily and weekly market commentary by Zaner's team of advisors. Our comprehensive morning market overview is a first stop for many of our customers. Starting with Important Notices and Announcements, our Futures HeatMap and Hot Topics and moving on to the Market Commentary, there is a range of news, insights, trade analysis and trade set-ups, covering both futures and options. In MarketHead.com you'll find:

- Options data complete with values.
- Research directly from Zaner and other leading institutions such as Hightower.
- 42 indicators/studies and technical analysis on all commodities, including Candlestick charts, MASCD, %R and more.

Sign up for your 14-day Free trial and see for yourself. No costs. No obligation. No excuses. Check it today at: http://www.zaner.com/markethead/log_in.asp?page=index.asp?

7. Still sitting on sidelines?

Make one of your financial Resolutions a decision to open your account with the Zaner Group this month! Opening an account does not require a commitment to place a trade, but it is the first step to getting started. When it comes to your trading and investment plan, there is nothing more frustrating than being ready and willing to place a trade, only to be reminded that there is that small matter of completing account documentation. What are you waiting for? We're only a click away at: <http://www.zaner.com/3.0/account/account.asp>

The Zaner Group wishes you a healthy, successful and profitable 2009 and reminds you we are here for you, whatever your trading and brokerage needs may be!

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