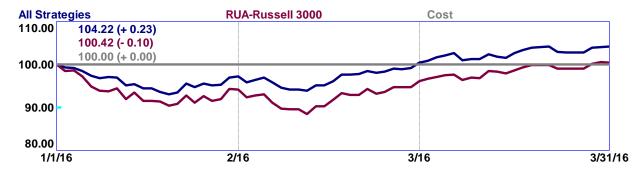
# **Performance Summary**



April 1, 2016

# **All Accounts and Strategies**

Year-to-date aggregate price changes relative to the Russell 3000.



These rates include cash but not management fees, which vary by size of account, are not applicable for my personal accounts, and are thus difficult to meaningfully calculate. Individual client reports are after fees withheld. Performance rates are based on dollars, while the above charts are based on price change by position, independent of dollars in each position. The numbers in parentheses are for percent change for the last day of the quarter. Future performance is unknown. Nothing in this report of past performance should be construed as an assurance (or threat) of future results.

# Time Weighted Return (TWR) To Date: 4.9%, 12 Mo: -4.4%. Percent Change, Qtr: 4.3%.

Wenzel Analytics became a Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) on 1/1/2002. The annual rate of return (TWR), including cash, for Wenzel Analytics over that period of more than fourteen years has been **4.9%** compared to **4.6%** for the Russell 3000 and **4.2%** for the S&P 500.

Comments will accompany the data on each strategy and subsuming portfolio, with an overall comment at the end.

#### Benchmark Comparisons, 3/31/16

	Quarter *	12 Months	Since 1/1/2002
Wenzel Analytics (TWR)	4.3%	-4.4%	4.9%
Benchmarks			
Russell 1000 Equal Weight (EQAL)	2.9%	-5.1%	
Russell 3000 (RUA)	0.4%	-2.3%	4.6%
Dow Jones Industrial Avg (DJIA)	1.5%	-0.5%	4.1%
S&P 500 (GSPC)	0.8%	-0.4%	4.2%
Russell 2000 (RUT)	-1.9%	-11.1%	6.0%
All World Ex-U.S. (VEU)	-0.6%	-11.5%	
Emerging Markets (VWO)	5.7%	-15.4%	
Gold (GLD)	15.9%	6.1%	

<sup>\*</sup> Percent change rather than an annual rate

#### **Benchmark Comments**

A few comments are offered defensively about benchmarks. First of all, one cannot buy an index. One can only buy a product such as an ETF or mutual fund which implements an index. These products have license fees for the index, plus transaction costs such as commissions and spreads, as well as other administrative and sales costs. Secondly, in S&P research reported by Mark Hulbert, "Looking at longer-term performance, only 2.41% of large-cap funds, 3.21% of midcap funds and 4.65% of smallcap funds maintained a top-half performance over five consecutive 12-month periods." I read that 87% of money managers in 2014 had returns less than their benchmark indexes. Very few advisors or funds match our long-term performance. Thirdly, the benchmarks are not an average of performance. The benchmarks themselves are slanted towards higher returns, in part because of the common cap-weight that tilts towards momentum. In addition, a stock that drops significantly would likely fall out of the index, thus removing the loss from the index records. Indexes have a significant survivorship bias. The fourth point is that an equities benchmark such as the Russell 3000 is irrelevant for over a third of the assets managed which are in the High Income portfolio designed to produce stable and significant returns independent of market gyrations. Another fifteen percent is in gold and silver, also for the purpose of gaining independence from the volatility of the equities market. We are achieving more and more independence from market fluctuations.

There is an ongoing debate between choosing active or passive investment strategies. In spite of the odds, I'm still partial to active investing. What is referred to as passive or index investing is not all that passive, in that typically there is a choice of one or more indexed products which is active management. In hindsight looking at benchmarks such as provided in the table above, one can always find some indexes which outperformed. The problem is to select the out-performers in advance.

#### **Wenzel Analytics**

Wenzel Analytics manages money for sixteen households and forty-one accounts with many families having multiple accounts, i.e. IRA, SEP, Roth, taxed, trust. Some clients have placed all of their investable assets with Wenzel Analytics, and some only a small portion.

This entire report is exclusive of management fees. Some fees are withdrawn from the brokerage accounts and some clients pay by check from other accounts and are thus outside the database calculations. Since fees are a combination of a rate (.25% per quarter) and a flat fee (\$50 per family per quarter), the impact on returns varies by the size of account. Our personal accounts do not pay fees. While individual client reports are after fees, it is difficult to create meaningful charts or return calculations net of fees for the aggregate of all accounts.

#### **Strategies and Portfolios**

Almost since inception in 2002, portfolios fit into three types of strategies. A strong rational, logic, story or scenario drives the first strategy. Gold and silver are part of the strong rationale strategy.

A second strategy is to use newsletters and other sources selected because of their tested and empirical performance history. The current portfolios within the Tested Source strategy are High Income, Shadow (from AAII), Nate's Notes, Investment Advisory Service and Small Cap Informer.

A third strategy derives from criteria developed or adapted using statistical and data mining technology. A somewhat detailed description of the methodology is at the website under Papers. The challenge is to find consistent patterns rather than merely a high average return over an extended period of time, and then to buy enough positions to replicate the finding going forward.

More specific information on portfolios, methodology and tools can be found in the fourth quarter, 2014, general letter to clients at www.wenzelanalytics.com.

Each household's accounts are individually balanced using these strategy and sub-set portfolio preferences, as well as individual stock selection. Some portfolios work better in different market periods. Individuals holding the same portfolio will have different stocks because of starting or adding positions at different points in time. Even at the same purchasing date and for the same portfolios in different accounts, the number of stocks added to a portfolio is dependent upon cash available and allocation considerations between different portfolios.

Because the total of all accounts is more consistent than any given account, this report is more relevant to expected future performance than the single sample of a client's individual report.

Return calculations include both current and discontinued portfolios, using the AIMR standards.

Small and exploratory portfolios, i.e. under \$100,000 for all accounts, are included in overall reporting but usually not reported here individually. New portfolios without a history are not reported. Only portfolios are reported that had open positions at the end of the quarter.

# **Calculating Returns**

The industry standards for calculating returns specify two methods (GIPS/AIMR). Comparing the two methods in the table below reveals significant differences in some cases, and is reason to not put too much reliance on any one number. Return on Investment (ROI), also referred to as Internal Rate of Return (IRR), measures how well invested money has performed, and includes the effects of all cash flows. Client reports are calculated using ROI.

The other method is Time-Weighted Returns (TWR). Time-Weighted returns measure the intrinsic performance of the money under management and are not affected by external cash flows such as the timing of new money from new accounts. Time-Weighted Returns are used by mutual funds to make comparisons, and are used in this report on aggregate or book-of-business returns. To be CIPS/AIMR compliant, annual rates of return are used for periods of one year or more and percent change is used for periods less than one year. If there are no cash flows going in or out, the two methods of calculation will give the same result.

On the second table below, it is interesting to note that the Time Weighted Returns since inception are 4.6% while the IRR is only 2.3% or half. The difference is accounted for by clients bringing in new money at the wrong times, or withdrawing or closing their accounts at the wrong times. I don't have control over when clients choose to terminate, and to that extent do not have control over the ROI.

Occasionally I have gone to cash in varying degrees and closed out portfolios. My software cannot calculate rates of return over these un-invested periods. Therefore portfolio returns are only shown for periods since the last zero balance even if there might be an earlier history. The earlier history is captured in overall returns such as for the relevant strategy or entire book of business.

The table below gives returns by year.

By Year	r Annual Rates			Cumulative			
Time Weighted Returns (TWR)	Russell 3000	Investments	Cash & Investments	Russell 3000	Investments	Cash & Investments	
2002	-22.8%	-18.4%	-14.8%	-22.8%	-18.4%	-14.8%	
2003	28.7%	62.2%	55.7%	-0.6%	15.0%	12.8%	
2004	10.1%	14.5%	12.3%	2.9%	14.9%	12.6%	
2005	4.3%	11.0%	9.4%	3.2%	13.9%	11.8%	
2006	13.8%	17.2%	16.7%	5.2%	14.5%	12.8%	
2007	3.3%	17.0%	16.5%	4.9%	15.0%	13.4%	
2008	-38.7%	-48.1%	-45.5%	-2.9%	2.6%	2.1%	
2009	25.5%	39.7%	33.0%	0.3%	6.7%	5.8%	
2010	14.8%	29.2%	25.0%	1.9%	9.0%	7.8%	
2011	9%	-19.6%	-19.0%	1.6%	6.0%	4.0%	
2012	14.0%	1.6%	1.1%	2.7%	6.3%	5.4%	
2013	31.0%	14.6%	14.9%	4.8%	7.0%	6.1%	
2014	10.5%	0.5%	-0.5%	5.2%	6.5%	5.6%	
2015	-1.5%	-6.4%	-6.7%	4.7%	5.4%	4.6%	

# Allocation and Returns by Strategy and Portfolio

Strategy	Portfolio	Allocation	Inter	nal Rate Re	turn	Time-Weighted Retu		Return	
		3/31/2016	Quarter % Chg*	12 Months	Rate Since 1/1/02	Quarter % Chg*	12 Months	Rate Since 1/1/02	
Cash	Cash	2.9%						1.7%	
Rationale	Gold Silver	14.8%	15.4%	1.9%		15.4%	1.8%		
	Resource Scarcity	4.0%	3.9%	-26.5%		3.3%	-26.7%		
	Singles	1.8%	-4.8%	-12.8%	-0.1%	-4.9%	-13.1%	8.0%	
	Timing	4.2%	0.7%	4.7%		0.9%	-5.3%		
		24.8%	8.9%	-5.1%	3.4%	8.6%	-6.9%	4.5%	
Statistical	Defensive	7.5%	6.5%			4.4%			
Tested	Income	36.5%	4.1%	0.2%	5.1%	4.0%	-0.4%	10.5%	
Source	Invest Adv Serv	12.9%	-3.6%	-10.2%		-5.6%	-13.3%		
	Nate's Notes	12.5%	7.1%			7.5%			
	Shadow	1.7%	11.7%	-5.3%		11.7%	-0.9%		
	Small Cap Inform	1.2%	-9.6%			-9.6%			
		64.7%	3.0%	-1.5%	4.2%	2.8%	-2.0%	5.8%	
Investments		97.1%	4.5%	-4.1%	2.8%	4.3%	-5.3%	5.7%	
Investments	& Cash	100.0%	4.3%	-3.9%	2.5%	4.3%	-4.4%	4.9%	

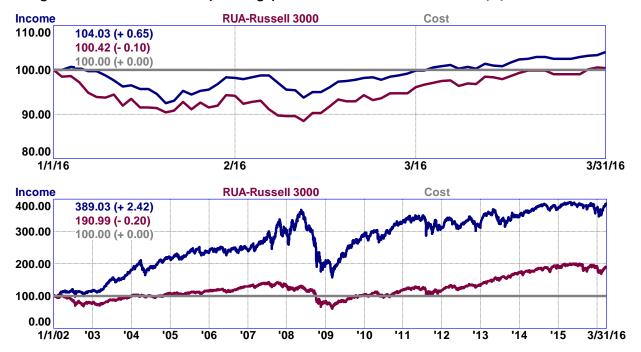
<sup>\*</sup> Quarterly returns are percent change rather than annual rates.

Very small or very recent portfolios do not have a separate line, but are included in strategy totals.

<sup>\*</sup> Blank cells had data for less than a quarter or were cash with minimal returns.

#### Tested Source Portfolios

1. High Income. TWR 3 Months (% Change): 4.0%. 12 Months: -0.4%. Since 1/1/2002: 10.5%



For clients for whom relatively solid and predictable returns are important independent of what the stock market is doing, we are turning more and more to preferred stocks with their high dividends. The preferred stocks plus a few Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) now comprises 36% of combined client assets, more than double that of any other portfolio. The positions are divided between preferred stocks (28% of all managed assets), REITs (7%) and other corporations paying very high dividends (1%).

The first chart above is year-to-date and the second is since inception. These charts are for percent change in each position, regardless of the dollars in each position. Therefore, the actual return numbers are more accurate.

The charts below show price change over the last year for preferreds and REITs within the High Income portfolio.



While there is some volatility, and more than I expected this past quarter, it is much less than the market because all of the positions are callable at \$25. We use the data from CDx3 to select and evaluate preferred stocks.



The REITs are more volatile than the preferreds, but also outperform. Surprisingly and increasingly, price variations are influenced more by stock market volatility than by changes in operating income that determines the REIT's dividends and expected value in owning the REIT. I suspect this is related to indexed buying. We will be moving even more towards specialty REITs such as public storage, senior housing, medical office and campus housing.

### 2. Investment Advisory Service. TWR 3 Months (% Change): -5.6%. Twelve months: -13.3%.



Returns have been more volatile than the market and trail the market over the past year. I added the Cambria Global Value ETF as a value benchmark.

The Investment Advisory Service is a newsletter edited by Doug Gerlach published by ICLUB central, best known as the sponsoring organization of investment clubs. Hulbert Financial Digest reports stellar returns and Doug Gerlach's presentation at the National AAII Conference was impressive. The methodology is based upon fundamentals. We used the newsletter for a couple years beginning in 2011 and then again for about nine months in 2014. Our exits coincided with decisions to generally go to cash. I have recently begun to invest in a second newsletter of his, the SmallCap Informer, with more expected volatility but similar results to date.

#### 3. Small Cap Informer. TWR to Date (% Change): -9.2%



It is too soon to retreat from either portfolio, although clients wanting less volatility may choose the Income Portfolio or the Defense statistical portfolio.

Historical performance used in the selection of these portfolios and Nate's Notes is posted below.

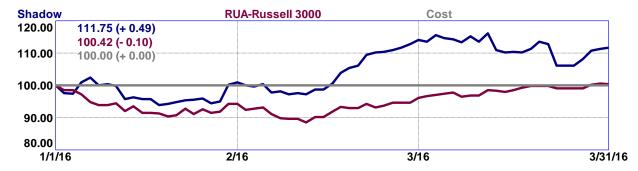
The Hulbert Financial Digest, July 2015		Investor Advisory Service	Nate's Notes	Wilshire 5000
Total Return	(Annualized except 6 mo)			
	6 Mo (% Change)	4.1	23.4	1.7
	5 Yr	18.1	29.8	17.3
	10 Yr	11.2	18.7	8.2
	15 Yr	11.0	10.5	4.9
Risk (Standard Deviation)		1.15	2.63	1.00
		Hi	V Hi	Avg
Correlation to market		0.87	0.53	1.00
Risk Adjusted (Sharp Ratio)	6 Mo (% Change)	0.18	0.58	0.11
	5 Yr	0.36	0.40	0.39
	10 Yr	0.19	0.23	0.15
	15 Yr	0.17	0.13	0.08

#### 4. Nate's Notes. TWR 3 Months (Percent Change): 7.1%. Since Inception 4/23/15: 4.8%.



Nate's Notes is utilized because of its exceptional historical performance reported by *Hulbert's Financial Digest*. The newsletter is interesting to read and easy to follow. It has 12.5% of our allocation. This is an aggressive portfolio to balance the low-volatility High Income. One position, Mannkind (MNKD) is a bio-tech company that has been in turmoil due to the cancelation of its distributor. The stock dropped to one dollar and I bought more. Within a month it went up to two dollars, and is now back to about \$1.60. The portfolio is heavily weighted to bio-tech and technology.

## 5. Shadow (AAII). TWR 3 Months (Percent Change): 11.7%. Twelve months: -0.9%.

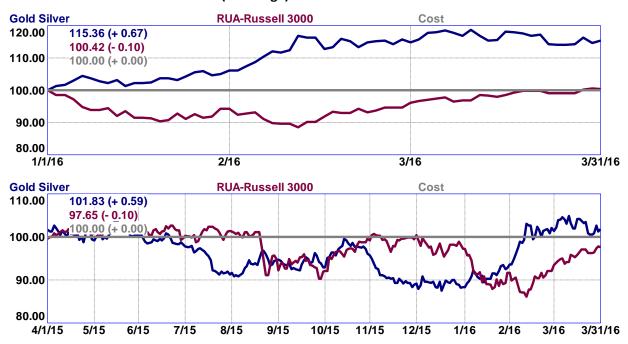


The Shadow portfolio is drawn from an AAII published portfolio of micro stocks. It is expected to be volatile. The portfolio is in only four accounts and there are only three positions. Taken together holdings represent 1.7% of managed assets.

# **Strong Rationale Portfolios**

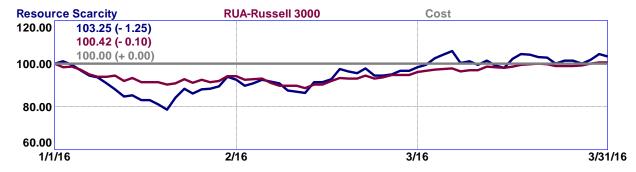
Some portfolios are based mostly on economic assumptions with a convincing story or rationale. There may be some reliance upon fundamentals and technical charting, but the primary driver is that there is a logical case for deploying the portfolio. A portfolio may be from persuasive newsletters without a long performance record. Except for gold and silver, most of these are in my personal account.

## 6. Gold and Silver. TWR 3 Months (% Change) 15.4%. Twelve Months: 1.8%.



Gold and silver jumped in early February and have been consolidating since. I think we will see more upward price action now that it has broken above the downward channel of the past three years. Gold and silver represent 14.8% of managed assets.

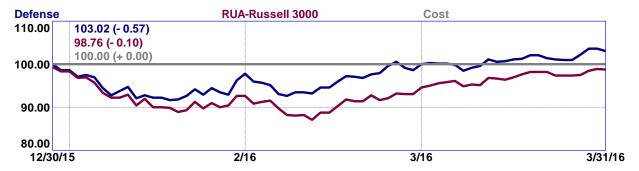
# 7. Resource Scarcity. TWR 3 Months (% Change) 3.3%. Twelve Months: -26.7%.



There has been volatility in the energy and resources arena with the oil prices fluctuating, making this a very speculative portfolio. Other than in my personal accounts, only one position has been added in the past three years (CLB). Total allocation is 4%, most of which is in my personal portfolio as long-term positions. I happen to think we have seen the bottom in commodity and energy prices.

#### Statistical Portfolios

#### 8. Defense. TWR since inception: 5.5% change (Annual rate 23%)



Playing Defense is currently our only statistical portfolio. It is described under <a href="http://wenzelanalytics.com/Papers.htm">http://wenzelanalytics.com/Papers.htm</a>. Rolling monthly returns since 2003 have not had a negative year when buying the complete screen results with 15 or more selections. Annual returns are 16.7% including cash when there were too few screen selections to buy, and 25% for time invested.

In this first quarter the screen has been working precisely as in the research, with about half the downward volatility of the market and holding with the market when the market is going up. I'm quite excited about this portfolio as a way to achieve good gains while limiting downward pressures. I encourage you to read the paper if you haven't already.

#### **Overall Comment**

The quarterly percent change of 4.3% compares to 0.4% for the Russell 3000 and comes to an annual rate of 18.5% if it continued for a full year. I'm more comfortable with our strategies and portfolios than I have been for some time. I see it as a time to not be pulling things up by the roots and shifting around, but rather to let things grow. For some individuals we might be moving out of Investment Advisory Service or Small Cap Informer and into Defense, but not change the overall offering of portfolios.

Contact me if you have questions, ideas, or should want to see other charts or data.