

My Trading Experience

In October 1997 due to a stressful IT job, I retired early and traded stocks with 125K from my 401K during the "Dot.com" and "Technology" Bubble on my own and later using IBD-Investor's Business Daily methodology. I made almost 1 Million Dollars in two years before "Y2K".

Nope, I didn't buy an expensive car, or a luxury house because I didn't think it was necessary for a single person like me who was living in my parents' guest house that my brother and I already paid off. Instead, I traveled around the world to Canada, Holland, Germany, Paris, London; and attended various trading seminars in Toronto, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Orlando, and Dallas. Also, I paid off my credit card debt, and helped my Dad and two siblings with theirs.

Needless to say, I lost almost ALL of it by 2008's Financial Crisis... Let's just leave it at that and only focus on the second part of my trading career where I switched to trading Futures with much less capital, and with the added bonus of not needing to do research or watch the news for earnings.

"Why the heck did I get into Futures trading?"

Trading Futures was the only way to release stress and for me... not going insane!

...Mom passed away November 17, 2014--ten days before Thanksgiving.

I was a caregiver for Mom during last seven years of her life... She was getting worse by the year due to diabetes, kidney failure, and vascular disease.

...Dad passed away April 17, 2017--one day after Easter.

I was a caregiver for Dad during the last two years of his life... He had Alzheimer's disease, blind in one eye, and deaf in one ear. He slept during the day and was restless at night. Therefore, I slept "four2six-hour" or "three4three-hour" patterns on/off. I could sleep anytime, anywhere - either laying down or sitting up.

As a caregiver, I traded less during NYSE but more during the European Open and pre-Market to find "1Shot2Kill" trades that could turn into Swing for Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly Profits.

Trading E-mini S&P 500 Index

ES aka "Drama Queen"

First three years "in hell" but I never thought about giving up!

By the end of 2012, chat room members gave me the nickname "Zen Master" to reward me for having a "Crystal Ball" just because I have the ability to spot REVERSAL on 1M chart based on spiking Volume... To me, volume is just ONE piece of the puzzle. I also used Keys# like Daily, Weekly, Monthly OHLC; Initial Balance Range... I paid attention to what's in play like SWAP, Pivots, UnfillGap and which S/R level to retest B/O or B/D points at Asia/European/Pit/NYSE Open.

Not really watching every 1M candle... just candles at certain time frames.

It's been years of screen times, self-studying and doing daily, weekly, monthly homework before bedtime.

I was grateful that I could see the reversal "as clear as day," but I really didn't know "how" or "why" to pick the exact Top or Bottom from time to time - but never held past 5-10pts as runner successfully. If I did, then it retested and shook me out at break-even.

I think another piece of the puzzle is still missing!

Trading GC "Gold Rush"

By 2013 I followed chat member J.J. who started trading GC with his Pivots Play.

The first trade I took was because of 1M Volume Spiked Reversal @PVT level near 1:30pmEST Closing; his entry and mine were a couple ticks apart but we took profit quickly because it was rallying too far too fast, and we got nervous not knowing why.

While doing weekend homework on 60M chart, I noticed that there were "foot prints" of Big Volume Buyers on certain days and at exactly the same time for several weeks. So I was trading extension Long@1170-77 on every decent pullback while chat members trading short calls and got stop-out one setup after another. I told my trading partner about it and sure enough, being my "Anchor-man" he came up with the all time favorite Fibonacci extension anchor using #428 level. That extension Long hit extended profits many times, then retested as Double Bottom by New Year's Eve after I was waiting for three weeks to reload.

Thinking to myself... What the heck is going on, wild swing with price action and volume? Not knowing it's the Contract Rollover in progress until later...

Nope, didn't load up 100 contracts though; if I did, then DFL = "DoneForLife"!

Trading CL"Crude Oil Blindly"

By the summer, when ES was moving so "slooow," J.J. started trading CL with his Pivots Play, and then my trading partner started scalping it with his Initial Balance S/R and Open/Close method; I followed them but with "Yo-yo" results for not knowing CL Price Action as well as not knowing that it's MONTHLY Contract Rollover (Holy Cow!!!) beside Weekly TUE API Report and WED Inventory Report --unlike any other instruments.

What the heck? Wild swing with price action and volume than GC?

MONTHLY Rollover, huh?

WEEKLY Reports, huh?

OPEC Meeting, huh?

How I attacked those issues effectively?

Read on to my next Topic "SingleEntry==>MultiTargets<>ContractsRollover" Strategy

The "Buddy" aka Trading Partner

During one of those late nights spotting 1M Reversal, I made connection with "JetLag" who is a farmer, a pilot, and an astrology trader. He became my "Anchor-man" who was using TOS-Think or Swim platform to pull Fibonacci levels for Yearly longer timeframe charts... that I never can do the same with Ninja Trader 7 platform.

He and I became position traders and focused more on Gold GC, then Crude Oil CL later. He's truly a "made-in-heaven" trading partner who's giving 110% efforts, sharing his own homework and analysis almost daily when he's not flying or working on his family farm. *Learning so much from each other and thinking so much alike... it's scary sometimes. From the very first moment we chat... We just "clicked" together!*

By May 2015, I think "Algos" is using Fibs in ABCD and Harmonic patterns more and especially when Pit's traders are being replaced by machines; therefore, I would like to focus more on Larry Pesavento's complex Harmonic patterns as well as Market Profile from JDaltonTrading, ShadowTrader, FuturesTrader71. *For sure, I can never learn to trade successfully using Option, Elliot Wave, or Astrology Finance!*

JetLag tried to teach me Astrology Finance but I could never comprehend it. I tried to convince him to take another look at Harmonic Patterns; he declined, but we agreed it's necessary to learn Order Flow Analysis with Footprint chart. We researched on our own for a vendor, but because I still wanted to continue using NT7 platform, I chose Auction Dashboard. He tried and tested NT7 again but still disliked it so much that he took a different path and attended training for months with Market Delta.

Note: Knowing what I know now, if I can go back in time as a newbie just starting to trade Futures, I would not have chosen the Ninja Trader platform either.

So we chat less and less... busy with our own new training in OFA that required endless hours of screen times with Footprint chart.

Journal .2015 October - November

The "Bug"

During last two weeks of October and throughout November 2015, I was feeling extremely depressed but still planning for Mom's first Memorial at our home. I was not as sad about her passing as I was about the family issues among my siblings, especially now that Mom was no longer here to pull us together.

So, instead of trading I preferred to watch Korean dramas online with English subtitles from beginning to end - all days and all nights, non-stop. Sleepless and restless, my trading suffered to the point that I was thinking about giving up, letting go of everything else.

Via Skype I posted these messages:

[11/1/2015 8:03:06 AM]

So there goes October... and my trading partner is still MIA. Thinking of you every day as the ES Market is going higher!

[11/8/2015 10:07:11 AM] Depression is one thing but I lost my passion for trading lately -- especially last week. Don't really know how to get it back... Have not done Weekly or Monthly Review or Homework at all. Do you ever getting the same "bug"?

Via Skype he replied:

[11/8/2015 8:17:39 PM] Yes I have, one of two things and sometimes both. 1. Other things in life is dragging you down. 2. Wondering if I am ever going to be consistent in making money vs. gain one week and then lose it the next week and not getting anywhere money wise.

Wow... Thanks a million for your truthful reply... really need to "wake me up"!

That was almost the very last message... I didn't really know if JetLag and I would cross paths again, but I prepared myself for not ever seeing "gm...", "gn...", "tty tomorrow." And if "tomorrow" never came again, I'll miss him dearly.

Mom's first year memorial came and gone; my oldest brother and his family didn't come - as if he disowned me and Dad even before the funeral. My oldest sister stopped by once a month, and my youngest brother came by once or twice a year. My only other brother brought take-out food and my younger sister cooked Dad's favorite meals for us once a week.

Just too sad about the family situation but the plants still need water, and helpless Dad still need to be taken care of. Things still need to be moving, if I am still alive.

I slowly woke up and realized that it was up to me to overcome whatever "bug" that I was having, to find my passion and to learn how to trade again.

First things first...**I attended Structural Trading webinar and took the promotion \$20/one month trial.**

*Whenever I watch this short 45 minutes drama "**One Line Love**" starring Lee Min Ho,*

I feel happiness--the drama always warm my heart and put a smile on my face. It's a modern day version of "Romeo & Juliet" but with a very happy and very romantic ending!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3_XcFndTjQ

Published MAY 23, 2014

*Another best short drama "**The Third Way of Love**" starring Song Seung Heon and Crystal Liu*

She asked: "Can you break love into three kinds?"

He replied: "First, A woman who is crying... Second, a man who wipes her tears off..."

Third, (complete silent... so watch the movie for the unexpected sad ending!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coNEgULVgYs>

Published on JAN 28, 2016

Journal.2015 December

The "Boss" aka Educator/Mentor

Asked: "How do you distinguish the good intention of a mentor vs. the bad intention of a salesman?"

Replied: "What are their real intentions?"

A Salesman is interested in a paycheck and is after a sale by putting a pressure on you.

A Mentor is interested in YOU... he/she is not going to change his/her life whatsoever, nor change whether or not you choose to use their services for whatever it is."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVYajwWgV-k>

Published on JUN06, 2017

Finding Success in Futures Trading w/John Hoagland @ TopstepTrader

Watching that webinar about this "mentor's intention" question... instantly reminding me of Kathy Garber from StructuralTrading.com who is truly interested in ME!

Read more about her as a Mentor in next Chapter "My Journey... Learning Harmonic Patterns"

<https://www.screencast.com/t/YMxclvQJ>

Read more about her Services in next Topic "Checklist for my ideal Structural Trading"

https://content.screencast.com/users/TraderTS/folders/Jing/media/5029fbd8-9d34-4186-b2cd-840ce2247897/2017-07-04_2003.png

Note: She even arranged for her developer to "debug" for hours via TeamViewer a programming error with ST_Zones drawing tools that I modified un-intentionally by mistake. LMAO!