



**MMA FREE WEEKLY COMMENTS  
FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 7, 2018 ©**

If you wish to receive these weekly reports in PDF format by email, let us know at [CustomerService@mmacycles.com](mailto:CustomerService@mmacycles.com) or visit [www.mmacycles.com](http://www.mmacycles.com) and click “Free Weekly Column” at the top of page. Please understand that if you request us to send these free weekly columns to you by email, they include announcements of events that MMA sponsors or participates in.

**REVIEW AND PREVIEW**

*The Labor Department said the U.S. economy added 312,000 positions in December and the unemployment rate rose to 3.9 percent. The jobless rate rose as 419,000 new workers entered the workforce and the labor force participation rate increase to 63.1 percent. Wages jumped 3.2 percent from a year ago, gaining 11 cents between November and December, an increase of 0.4 percent. That gain was larger than the 0.3 percent increase Wall Street economists expected.*

The end of 2018 was a very eventful holiday period. On Christmas Eve, December 24, the Dow Jones Industrial Average suffered its greatest decline ever for that day, losing 653 points. The next trading day, December 26, the DJIA dropped even further, but then reversed and closed up 1086 points, its greatest one-day gain ever. We are seeing a similar pattern unfold in the first three trading days of the new year.

But let’s review the end of last year first, because some things happened then that may be very important now.

To experience such a wild ride on the days before and after Christmas was nearly unthinkable before, because these are times in which markets are almost always quiet. But not in 2018. Not with Uranus in late Aries, near a conjunction to Saturn in the founding chart of the New York Stock Exchange (May 17, 1792), and in opposition to the NYSE Jupiter/Neptune conjunction in Libra. Uranus was also in late Aries in February-April 2018 when the DJIA had its two record-breaking 1000+ down days and eventually made its bottom on April 2. When no other major aspects in the heavens are present, we look to transiting aspects to the NYSE chart, and that revealed the correspondence that we associate with moves like this.

Uranus ingressed into Taurus May 15, 2018, which corresponded to a more orderly market. Then, after it turned retrograde on November 6, 2018 and moved back into late Aries, the selling thrust returned. It became relentless after Venus made its third and final opposition to Uranus on November 30. The last rally attempt ended the next trading day, December 3, with the DJIA making a secondary top at 25,980. From there, it was a waterfall down to the low of 21,712 on the morning of December 26, a loss of 19.43% from its all-time high of October 3, an exact MMA three-star critical reversal date (CRD), just two trading days before Venus turned retrograde. In the next two trading days following Christmas Eve, the DJIA rallied 1669 points to a high of 23,381 on Friday, December 28.

For the month of December, the DJIA was down 2,211 points, it's worst December performance since 1931 and worst year since the Great Recession a decade ago. In fact, the 19.43% decline since October 3, puts the DJIA into both the time and price target range for the 4-year cycle trough.

According to our studies published in the revised edition of The Ultimate Book on Stock Market Timing, Volume 1: Cycles and Patterns in the Indexes, "*The price decline from crest to trough in the 4-year cycle has a normal range of 16.2-57.1% (about 90% frequency). The decline is usually at least 19.2% (81.25% rate of frequency).*" It is also interesting to note that 4-year cycles usually last 36-56 months, and in 25% of historical cases, the decline from crest to trough lasted only 1-3 months. The low of December 26 was in the 40<sup>th</sup> month since the last 4-year cycle started in August 2015, and the declines from the high of October 3, 2018 was in the second month afterwards. In other words, our criteria for a 4-year cycle low via time and price targets are being met. Of course, there is still time and room for prices to fall lower, and Uranus will not leave Aries until March 6. But with Jupiter also now in Sagittarius, investors who recognize the value of MMA research-based market timing studies are encouraged to be very vigilant now for the possible start of a new bull market.

As we started the New Year last week, world stock markets embarked upon another wild ride. The DJIA, for instance, was down 660 points on Thursday, January 3, on negative news of Apple's future revenue warnings. But, all those losses in the DJIA were regained on Friday as the DJIA gained 746 points following the release of the monster employment report numbers, along with news of talks resuming regarding trade matters between China and the USA. That resolution is going to be the game-changer that puts the bullish thrust of Jupiter-in-Sagittarius into motion. Jupiter and Sagittarius both rule world trade.

### **SHORT-TERM GEOCOSMICS**

The disturbing news of Apple's revenue projection that sent the stock market into a tailspin on Thursday corresponds to the planet Uranus. The planet of chaos, volatility, and excitement also rules technology, and turns direct in motion (ends its retrograde motion) this weekend, on January 6, one day after a solar eclipse conjunct Saturn (stressful news for technology companies). But it doesn't end there. Jupiter will form a 135° sesquiquadrate to Uranus on January 9, an aspect appropriately described by the late German Astrologer Thomas Ring as the equivalent of a "rip" in current matters. It feels like a "rip" is occurring.

All of this precedes the first of three passages of the Jupiter/Neptune square on January 13, the dominant major aspect involving the outer planets in force in 2019. As described in greater detail in the Forecast 2019 Book, this aspect is the "setup" for the powerful "Capricorn Stellium" that will unfold December 2019 through December 2020. It pertains to irrational exuberance, complacency, and/or hysteria and panic. I would say we are collectively experiencing a combination back and forth between complacency and hysteria right now as we head into the first encounter, and the markets are reflecting this.

### **LONG-TERM THOUGHTS AND GEOCOSMICS**

*Trump celebrated a consistent rise for stocks during his first year in office. But markets have faltered this year amid a trade war with China, concerns about the Fed's four interest rate hikes and fears about slowing global growth. Trump has tried to blame market carnage on the Fed. Before the plunge Monday (December 24), the president tweeted that "the only problem our economy has is the Fed"... The sources said the investor advised the official to tell the president to end his criticism of (Fed chair Jerome) Powell on Twitter, stop administration turnover and reach a trade deal with China in order to help markets. – Scott Wapner, "Trump Administration Asks Top Investor for Advice on Markets Amid Wild Ride," December 28, 2018, <https://www.cnbc.com>*

I would say that advisor nailed it in the quote above. The *only* problem our economy has is not the Fed. The Fed had telegraphed its intent to raise rates well in advance, and even with the rate hike of September 2018, the market continued to rally to new all-time highs afterwards - until the president started publicly criticizing the Fed's plan, and then failed to make any progress on the trade dispute with China. To be to the point, the stock market's performance has been and continues to be the ownership of President Trump, like it or not. And he clearly doesn't like it when it falls so hard so often lately because of his actions and tweets. Neither does the rest of the world. But perhaps he will take that advice to heart (or not) and normalcy will return.

My understanding of geocosmic correlations to current and future activities in the world suggest this current climate of uncertainty and market instability is not going to suddenly change this month. Now, you must understand that I could be wrong. It's happened before. After all, astrology is never wrong, but the astrologer often is in his/her interpretation of what might happen, related to what is happening in the cosmos. We can always see the correlation in retrospect. It's always there. It's the same thing with any type of market analysis or market timing method of analysis, whether fundamental analysis (historians can always see the causes after the event, but seldom before), technical analysis, or chart pattern analysis. The correlations are always very evident after the fact. But we work with future probabilities based on historical rates of frequency of 80% or more in our studies. Unfortunately, there are not many instances of 100%. And when there are, it inevitably fails to perform the same as before the next time those same sets of factors come around, as most correspondences of use end up settling around the 80% mark.

Which brings us to the geocosmic factors in play this month, January 2019. Between January 2 and January 25, there are an abundance of geocosmic signature unfolding (at least ten) that have a tradeable correlation to short-term cycle highs and lows in stock indices, and probably other financial markets as well. At last 4 of these have a very high correlation to sharp price swings. It's likely to be roller coaster ride for traders, and if the recent months are any indications, a roller coaster ride for President Trump as well. Fasten your seat belts. The ride is not over yet. Watch the week of January 21-25 especially.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOTE 1: February 9, 2019: MMA'S FORECAST 2019 LIVE WEBINAR**, will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 11:00 AM (MST). This is 1:00 PM EST, 6:00 PM GMT. In the comfort of your own home or office, you can tune into Raymond Merriman's annual worldwide webinar on Forecast 2019. This broadcast will address subjects from this year's Forecast 2019 Book, with updates on financial markets since the book was written in November 2018. Outlooks for the U.S. stock market, Gold and Silver, crude oil, and currencies (including Bitcoin) will be discussed. Cost is \$45.00, and includes the slides of the presentation, plus a downloadable MP4 recording of the event. To reserve your spot in this live webinar broadcast, contact us directly at 1-248-626-3034, 800-MMA-3349, or email us at [customerservice@mmacycles.com](mailto:customerservice@mmacycles.com). You may register via our website at <https://mmacycles.com> > Products > Webinars. If unable to attend live, you can still sign up, as everyone will receive the MP4 recording, following the live event.

**NOTE 2:** Last week I gave a 3+ hour workshop on Forecast for 2019 to our Chinese students that went very well. The focus was on understanding the psychology of the Jupiter/Neptune square in 2019, Uranus in Taurus, and how they correspond to financial markets and global political conditions, leading into the "Capricorn Stellium" (the "Edge of the Cliff") in 2020. These themes were also applied to the current economic conditions in China. Much attention was given to the cycles presently coming due in China's stock market (the Shanghai Stock Composite Index), as well as an outlook for Gold, Silver, and Bitcoin. An MP4 recording of that webinar is now available for \$127, and includes 100+ power point slides. The event is given in English, with Chinese translation, but easy to understand. For information on purchasing this MP4 recording, call us at 1-248-626-3034 or email us at [customerservice@mmacycles.com](mailto:customerservice@mmacycles.com)

**NOTE 3: The Forecast 2019 Book is done and nearly sold out.** The orders received as of January 4 have been shipped out. As of the close of business that day, less than 25 books remain. When those remaining copies are sold out, they are gone. There will be no second printing. At that point, the only way to read Forecast 2019 will be through the eBook, which is available now for delivery to your inbox! ORDER NOW, if you have not done so already, and make sure you receive your copy of Forecast 2019 before they sell out. For more information on this annual best seller, go to <https://mmacycles.com> > Products> Forecast 2019. You may also email MMA at [customerservice@mmacycles.com](mailto:customerservice@mmacycles.com), or call 1-248-626-3034, 1-800-662-3349.

This year's printed version of Forecast 2019 is also available in four other languages, as follows:

Dutch: at [www.markettiming.nl](http://www.markettiming.nl)

German: at <http://www.mma-europe.ch/>

Japanese: at <http://merriman.jp>

Chinese: [www.nodoor.com/](http://www.nodoor.com/)

*“Dear Mr. Merriman: For the first time I ordered your book - Forecast 2019 book (e book) and read it in two days. Magnificent analysis from different perspectives, wished I discovered your great work before. Now I realize what was the part I was missing besides fundamental and technical analysis that I use as professor of economics.”. – D. S., Faculty of Economics and Tourism, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula.*

*“We highly recommend your Forecasts Book, which we have ordered every year since 1985. 33 years! It has been and is a must for us at the beginning of every trading year as it gives such an incredible insight into the possible political, economic and market changes that may unfold in the coming 12 months. It is packed with so much information that we constantly refer to it as our guide when we want to gain a feel for what conditions may be like in the coming weeks. Mixing astrological cycles with technical cycles is a powerful combination when seeking to forecast markets. E and A Black, United Kingdom. 45 years' experience in Financial markets and services/technical analysis.*

**NOTE 4:** Last month I gave a 2-hour webinar class on **Gold and Silver Long-Term Cycles**, that went extremely well. If you are interested in this class, the cost is \$95 for the MP4 recording, which is now available. Yes, it contains Chinese translation, but that won't affect the understanding of the material, which comes with a 14-page workbook with illustrations (charts), tables, and slides of the presentation. It is well-worth the cost given where we are right now in the long-term cycles of each. For information, contact MMA at [customerservice@mmacycles.com](mailto:customerservice@mmacycles.com), or call us at 1-800-662-3349 or 1-248-626-3034.

## EVENTS

**January 11-12, 2019: “Trends for 2019,” sponsored by Astrodata, Zurich, Switzerland.** Friday night lecture: **“Jupiter in Sagittarius, Neptune in Pisces: Is It a Bubble or a Crash?”** For much of 2019, Jupiter will be in its ruling sign of Sagittarius, and Neptune will be in its ruling sign of Pisces. Each, by itself, would normally be positive from the economies and stock markets of the world. But in 2019, these two planets will be in a challenging square aspect to one another. What does this mean for the world economy in 2019?

**Saturday workshop, Jan 12, in Zurich: “Forecasts for Financial Markets in 2019.”** Based on the Forecast 2019 Book, Ray will present his outlook for the world geopolitical and financial landscape in 2019. He will discuss various cycles – both rhythmic and geocosmic – to support his outlook. In this workshop, he will also share his forecast for several financial markets, including Gold, the USA and German/Swiss stock markets, crude oil, and the Euro/U.S. Dollar. If you are an investor or trader, or just

interested in the correlation between cycles in human activity and the cosmos, this is a workshop you will not want to miss!

**January 19, 2019, Amsterdam, Netherlands, “Forecasts 2019 and Beyond: The Reversal of the Current Economic Cycle,” sponsored by Schogt Market Timing.** This conference will take place at the Hotel Breukelen outside of Amsterdam, and feature Karen Hammaker-Zondag, Irma Schogt, Ulric Aspegren, Antonia Langsdorf, and Raymond Merriman. For more information, please visit [www.markettiming.nl](http://www.markettiming.nl) or take the direct link <https://goo.gl/VPxGSe> for conference details. This is another event not to be missed if you are near Amsterdam at the time.

**February 9, 2019: MMA’S FORECAST 2019 LIVE WEBINAR,** will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2019, 11:00 AM (MST). This is 1:00 PM EST, 6:00 PM GMT. In the comfort of your own home or office, you can tune into Raymond Merriman’s annual worldwide webinar on “Forecast 2019.” This broadcast will address subjects from this year’s Forecast 2019 Book, with updates on financial markets since the book was written in November 2018. Outlooks for the U.S. stock market, Gold and Silver, crude oil, and currencies will be discussed. Cost is \$45.00, and includes the slides of the presentation, plus a downloadable MP4 recording of the event. To reserve your spot in this live webinar broadcast, contact us directly at 1-248-626-3034, 800-MMA-3349, or email us at [customerservice@mmacycles.com](mailto:customerservice@mmacycles.com). You may register via our website at <https://mmacycles.com> > Products > Webinars. If unable to attend live, you can still sign up, as everyone who orders the Webinar will receive the MP4 recording, following the live event.

**March 9, 2019:** 10:30 AM – 4 PM. Nova Southwestern University, 3301 College Ave, Carl DeSantis Bldg, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This a 3-4 hour workshop on “**Forecast 2019,**” by Raymond Merriman. Contact 954-296-1211. \$50.

**April 26, 2019, 7 PM: “Forecasts for Financial Markets and USA Economy and Political Climate: An Evening with Ray Merriman.”** The location of this talk will be Room 9235 at the Naropa Nalanda Campus in Boulder, Colorado, 6287 Arapahoe Road, at the intersection of 63<sup>rd</sup> and Arapahoe. The cost is \$45 if registered before April 1, and \$55 afterwards. Sponsored by ROMA, the Rocky Mountain Astrological Association. For registration, contact Patti Simmers at 720-989-8822, or via email at [patti.simmers@comcast.net](mailto:patti.simmers@comcast.net). Attendance will be limited to 80 persons. Sign up early.

**June 8-16, 2019: “Geocosmic Correlations to Trading Cycles,” Beijing, China.** A two-weekend intensive Market Trading workshop/retreat with Raymond Merriman. This 32-hour intensive workshop will focus on the primary cycle and its phases – the half-primary, major, and trading cycles - and how to determine when they are due. Then, we will identify geocosmic signatures – Levels 1, 2, and 3 – as the basis for calculating CRDs (Critical Reversal Dates), to narrow the time band down for an important cycle reversal. Within that time, we will identify and discuss specific technical and charting tools that will further enhance the timing of a major market reversal, and the price target range to look for. In this analysis, we will also explore the use of 60-, 30-, and 5-minute charts for even more accurate entry and exit points. With these tools, we will then construct a daily and/or weekly trading plan, as used in MMA Daily and Weekly Reports, using current market situations. Examples of several markets – including the USA and China stock markets, Gold, and crude oil will be used to illustrate these market timing techniques, with forecasts for the future. The workshop will take place on the weekends of June 8-9 and June 15-16 in Beijing. During the week, participants will have the option of taking tours with other MMA students to exciting areas of China. The cost for this unique and valuable trading retreat is \$4000 (discounts will be available to subscribers of MMA Reports). For further information, please contact MMA at [customerservice@mmacycles.com](mailto:customerservice@mmacycles.com) or call 1-248-626-3034 or 1-800-MMA-3349.

Disclaimer and statement of purpose: The purpose of this column is not to forecast the future movement of various financial markets. However, that is the purpose of the MMA (Merriman Market Analyst) *subscription* services. This column is not a subscription service. It is a *free* service, except in those cases where a fee may be assessed to cover the cost of translating this column from English into a non-English language. This weekly report is written with the intent to educate the reader on the relationship between astrological factors and collective human activities as they are happening. In this regard, this report will often cite what happened in various stock and financial markets throughout the world in the past week and discuss that movement in light of the geocosmic signatures that were in effect. It will then identify the geocosmic factors that will be in effect in the next week, or even month, or even years, and the author's understanding of how these signatures may affect human activity in the times to come. The author (Merriman) will do this from a perspective of a cycles' analyst looking at the military, political, economic, and even financial markets of the world. It is possible that some forecasts will be made based on these factors. However, the primary goal is to both educate and alert the reader as to the psychological climate we are in, from an astrological perspective. The hope is that it will help the reader understand the psychological dynamics that underlie (or coincide with) the news events and hence potentially affect financial markets.

No guarantee as to the accuracy of this report is being made here. Any decisions in financial markets are solely the responsibility of the reader, and neither the author nor the publishers of this column assume any responsibility whatsoever for anyone's trading or investment decisions. Readers of this report should understand that commodity futures and options trading are considered high risk.