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Day-trader is new symbol of a roaring market

Handling hot stocks



STAFF PHOTOS/THOMAS BENDER

Day-trader Jim DePorre, who works out of his home, plays pool as he researches a company.

By Michael Pollick

STAFF WRITER

From 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, "Rev Shark" sits glued to the swivel chair in his own private stock trading room.

Three 20-inch computer monitors blink back at him, conveying costly, up-to-the-minute information into the room, and the Rev knows exactly what to do with it.

The Rev — who does all this from his home on Anna Maria — is a day-trader, a person who makes his living by moving in and out of hot stocks with great frequency. As the blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average closes in on 10,000, people like The Rev have become symbols for the market's wild gyrations.

Day-traders are actually a diverse crowd of market players. What they have in common is speed. Overnight is a long-term investment. They are interested in turning a momentary advantage into dollars, relying on a combination of computerized services that were unavailable to the average per-



Jim DePorre runs a section on America On Line called the Shark Attack, where he maintains a model portfolio and hosts chat rooms.

son only a few years ago.

Some work from trading offices like Sunstate Equity Trading in downtown Sarasota, using newfangled computer networks that pair up their buys and

sells directly with the market-makers in a given NASDAQ stock. While the front-end costs are high, these sys-

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