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SHARP SHARK

Before becoming a legend in the online trading community, **Jim De Porre** followed another course. The CPA had earned a law degree from the University of Michigan and was building a successful practice in Ann Arbor, Michigan. But then his life took a dramatically different turn. At 30, doctors told him he would soon become deaf. Unable to function in the same capacity as a lawyer, De Porre took up trading online. Known online as the **Rev Shark**, he soon became a venerated and vilified participant in Motley Fool bulletin boards. He now hosts his own AOL forum, called Shark Attack (Keyword: Traders). For De Porre, the Internet has not only opened up new professional opportunities, but it has let him overcome the limitations of his deafness. "My hearing, or lack thereof, is completely irrelevant online," he says. "I've made many good friends online and accomplished many things that I could never have done without the computer and the Internet."

Home base: Anna Maria Island, Florida

Bookmarks: Silicon Investor (www.siliconinvestor.com), Yahoo! Finance (quote.yahoo.com), The Motley Fool (www.fool.com), StockWiz (www.i-soft.com), and Daily Stocks (www.dailystocks.com) "StockWiz has a free stock search engine that brings you back one full page of company specific links."

Tools: Five Pentium IIs, 233-300 MHz. All computers served by ISDN from a local GTE affiliate. Online brokers include E*Trade, Discover, A.B. Watley, Schwab, Brown, and Datek. Quotes from PC Quote through A.B. Watley.

Advice: "Read everything you can find about the stock market. Be skeptical about tips and inside info you find online. Don't blindly follow the crowd—they most often are wrong. Challenge the conventional wisdom espoused by groups like the Motley Fools. Find a style and approach to trading or investing that is comfortable for you."

Prediction: "Online investing will continue to grow at a tremendous pace. I think we've just begun to see it take off. The comfort level will increase and people will start taking advantage of all the great information that is available out there. I don't think people really realize the vast resources that are available on the Net."

—Jennifer Tomshack

