

LA JOLLA LIGHT

Enlightening La Jolla Since 1913

Scott G. Kyle works hard, plays hardest

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Scott G. Kyle is chief executive officer and chief investment officer of Coastwise Capital Group LLC, a high-end money management firm headquartered in La Jolla. He is also the author of "The Power Curve: Smart Investing Using Dividends, Options, and the Magic of Compounding," a book that shows seasoned and beginning investors and traders how to enhance portfolio returns and utilize options.

In 1998, Kyle co-founded The Active Network Inc., a sports marketing and technology company that today has more than 3,000 employees worldwide. Kyle holds degrees in economics and international relations from Tufts University (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa), a general course degree in international relations from the London School of Economics and an MBA from Harvard University.

Kyle is a two-time world champion sailor, an Ironman triathlon finisher and a third-degree black belt in Shaolin Kempo. He lives in La Jolla with his wife, Carlie, and son, Jet, and serves on the board of several companies and nonprofit organizations. When not working (a rarity), Kyle enjoys running and biking along San Diego's coastline.

What brought you to La Jolla?

After 30 years of harsh winters in Chicago (growing up), New York (work) and Boston (school), I had my eye on La Jolla as a place to build my career and eventually family. As a sailor and triathlete, I spent many weekends "commuting" from the East Coast to La Jolla during cold winters. I made the permanent move to La Jolla in 1997, coincidentally and fortuitously, on my future wife's birthday (May 10). Within days of my arrival, my investing company was launched.

What makes La Jolla special to you?

The rare combination of coastal beauty and international sophistication.

If you could snap your fingers and have it done, what might you add, subtract or improve in La Jolla?

I would cease the wastewater getting poured onto our beautiful beaches and into our otherwise pristine ocean.

Who or what inspires you?

People who constantly challenge themselves and those around them, regardless of the realm.

If you hosted a dinner party for eight, whom (living or deceased) would you invite?

My wife, Carlie (she makes every occasion special); Warren Buffett (investing mentor); Richard Branson (inspiring businessman and adventurer); David Bowie (favorite rocker of all time, interesting guy); Steve Fossett (see Branson); Bruce Lee (great martial artist, brilliant philosopher); Arnold Schwarzenegger (his ability to execute a long-term vision is second to none); and Elvis Costello (just to keep Bowie honest; also a great conversationalist and poet).



What are you currently reading?

"The Partnership: The Making of Goldman Sachs." Whenever I engage in something, I strive for world-class results. Goldman Sachs is the "gold standard" for the financial industry and a model for my company, Coastwise Capital Group LLC.

What is your most prized possession?

My ability to deal with any and all circumstances in a positive way. My parents gave me the support and encouragement to put myself in very challenging conditions - physically, mentally, emotionally and otherwise. These experiences gave me the capacity and desire to forever place myself well out of my comfort zone.

What do you do for fun?

Engage in life to the fullest.

Describe your greatest accomplishment.

When I was 16, I entered a junior national sailing championship I had wanted to win since I was 9. It was my final year of eligibility. I had a terrible competition and finished well off my goal. I was devastated. The next weekend at another major event, I came back to beat everyone, including the winner of the national title. It reinforced the notion to me of never feeling sorry for yourself, never giving up and never forgetting that persistence wins over time.

What is your motto or philosophy of life?

Work very hard, workout harder, play hardest.