

#1001 --- July 13, 2015 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

Weekly Tourist-Oriented News & Comments about SXM

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Part of www.everythingstmaarten.com

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This format has been further narrowed so it is now easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

(Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents); this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday all year long (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You're receiving this because you subscribed or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

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- Dutch Side Gov't Likely to Change Tourism Ministers: Why It Matters to Timeshare Owners
- Orient Beach Bar / Restaurant Demolition Completed
- **Good Housekeeping** Offers Tips on Rescuing Waterlogged Cell Phones
- What Happened to Mary Fairbrother & Don Thompson in SXM - And Why It Matters
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[Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week](#)

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 230+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

FULL YEAR 2015 Royal Palm. Privately owned large, spacious 1 bedroom unit located on the 5th floor. Gorgeous ocean view. This unit sleeps 2 people. Sat-Sat arrival. Pictures available upon request. Weekly rates: Dec. 15- May 1 \$1300. May 1- Dec 15 \$1000. Contact Denise Bove @ 323 654 8623 or 310 430 8623 email: d_bove@sbcglobal.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 9/26/2015 10/3/2015 week 39 Simpson Bay Resort Unit A11 Great time to go: start of season with lower airfares and no crowds. Beautiful - totally renovated in 2013. Pool within 15 feet of unit, & a short walk to the ocean 1500+ sq. feet; 2 BR, Den; full kitchen, 2 full baths, Murphy beds in both Den & living area; TVs in all four rooms. Very spacious living area including pool table. Great gathering place. Dining & bar areas seat 10. Top floor of a two level building, large private balcony, running length of unit overlooking pool. Asking price - \$10,500 (listed by Resort for \$20,500) Charlie 781-801-8329 charles.erickson1@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our Facebook "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Group Page:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format (New):

http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive:list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing list of 210+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

http://www.everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Five: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)
(Revised 12/31/14)

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 230+** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

Contact Us:

[Revised 2/24/15]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at support@jmbcommunications.com

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including *Low Airfare Bulletins*) read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Carnival Planning Cruises to Cuba

In our thousandth edition last week, we reported on jetBlue's plans to fly from New York Kennedy to Cuba. Now, we're hearing that starting next May Carnival will offer cruises to Cuba from Miami. This would mark the first American cruises to Cuba since 1960, when the trade embargo began. Press reports say the trips would be aboard the Carnival brand Fathom which takes passengers to a destination so they can volunteer there. Cuban government approval is pending. Cost, just under \$3000 -- about triple the cost of other Caribbean cruises.

2. An Uptick in Tropical Activity Is Still Likely Next Month

Tropical activity in the Atlantic and the Caribbean this month has been quiet and is expected to remain so almost until the end of this month. Normally, August is when tropical activity increases, reaching a peak early in September then slowly diminishing through October.

This year, activity is expected to be light due to an El Niño in the Pacific. As always, we'll keep you posted and we'll issue bulletins to our JMB Website Supporters members if anything threatens SXM.

3. First SXM 787 Flights Coming This Fall (It's KLM)

There are three types of airplanes which plane spotters really enjoys seeing: the stately Boeing 747; the mammoth double deck Airbus A380; and the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

It's very unlikely that an A380 will ever land in St. Maarten. Our sense is that the plane is too big for the SXM airport and that it would be unable to depart with a full fuel load and clear the mountains. But who knows?

KLM's 747 may be the single biggest attraction at SXM airport. But as we reported in our 1000th edition, KLM will stop using 747s on the St. Maarten run late this year, replacing them with the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, a superefficient new large jet being assigned to long-distance flights by many international airline partners. Watch for it in St. Maarten in KLM colors in November.

4. Days Growing Shorter Means Your Next SXM Vacation Is Coming Closer

Not that you want to hear this, but days are starting to grow shorter which means that your next trip to St. Maarten is coming closer.

The point is significant for a different reason: there's a waiting period for benefits on pre-existing conditions in most medical evacuation programs. That's why, if you're considering getting a medical evacuation membership, you'll want to buy it far enough in advance of your trip to ensure that pre-existing conditions are covered when you travel. See stories 15 through 20 for much more information on this important topic.

5. Easy Flier: World's Simplest Travel Website

If you're looking for simplicity when you buy airfares, please choose our own www.flytravelgo.com. Our site is exceptionally easy to use and gives you very low fares -- and all its profits are driven right back into making www.everythingsxm.com better for our members. Please do give it a try -- it has many loyal clients.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. Alegria Loses Yet Another Court Battle; More Are Inevitable

Alegria Resort, which has anointed itself as the place of happiness, is the exact opposite in the minds of many timeshare owners whose contracts with Caravanserai, its predecessor property, were annulled by the new owners when they took over last October. The new folks simply sent an e-mail to some of the timeshare owners and said hello, you no longer own any timesharing at Caravanserai since we took the place over and have no plans to honor your contract, so you can't sell it, trade it, use it, bank it, or anything else. Have a nice day.

We paraphrased, of course, but that's essentially the attitude and the message conveyed by Alegria to former Caravanserai timeshare owners. It is for that reason that those timeshare owners are taking particular delight in recent events surrounding the new ownership of the resort.

First, Alegria recently displayed images of major renovations and rebuilding it plans for the property. There was loud, immediate criticism of the plans since they include something of a yacht harbor on top of fragile coral offshore, which would require blasting and the destruction of marine habitat. It's also an area that gets hammered badly in most storms.

Second, other plans include a tall vehicle parking garage near the entrance to the resort, far too high to suit the safety concerns of a number of officials at SXM Airport next door, who will likely go to court to make sure it doesn't happen.

Third, Alegria tried to kick out Marty's Dream Bar, which holds a long-term lease for its business on the Alegria property. The court told Alegria to knock it off and said it must honor Marty's lease long-term.

Fourth, Alegria tried to force two other businesses, the "C" lounge and a Thai restaurant, also to get out. The owner went to court and last week, won against Alegria.

Fifth, there is every indication that a significant group of unhappy Caravanserai timeshare owners who have retained counsel will be filing suit against Alegria before long. Although there is no such thing as class-action lawsuits in St. Maarten, nonetheless victimized timeshare owners are looking forward to possible positive results. Their lawyers are no amateurs.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

7. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week: Fourth In a Series

Despite heavy adverse publicity about several SXM timeshare resorts, there are many on the island that are quite well-run, responsive to their timeshare owners, and reasonable in cost. Between now and this fall, we'll talk about several of them in this new series. Each one we list will be added below, most recent first.

The metamorphosis is almost complete now. Simpson Bay was an old resort that needed maintenance and that absolutely looked its age. Now it is a prince; a totally renovated beautiful place inside and out with all the latest amenities. From a constant source of complaints to a resort now sought-after because of its beautiful condominiums -- it's a place where customer satisfaction ranks at the top of all SXM timesharing resorts. If you had to pick one modern SXM resort -- this now is the place.

Best timeshare resorts covered so far in this series:

Simpson Bay Resort <http://www.simpsonbayresort.com/7/13/15>

Oyster Bay Beach Resort <http://www.oysterbaybeachresort.com/> (7/6/15)

La Vista (6/29/15): <http://www.lavistaresort.com>

Royal Islander (6/22/15): <http://www.royalislander.com/>

Watch for another next week.

SECTION 3: Island

Story 8:

July Membership Sale Extended; Final Shot at 237 Discounts Across SXM for for \$49

Our July membership sale gives you low prices on our island discount program, JMB Website Supporters, which delivers a growing list of 237 island discounts -- but sale prices are now in their last week, so buy today:

Sale prices for new memberships:

1 year \$49; 2 years \$69; 3 years \$85; 5 years just \$115.

New memberships: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Sale prices for renewal memberships:

1 year \$34, 5 years \$79 (other durations available)

Renew your JMB membership: www.everythingsxm.com/secret

Sale prices for membership reinstatements:

5 years \$89, 7 years \$109 (other durations available)

Reinstate a JMB membership: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

9. Dutch Side Govt Likely to Change Tourism Head; Why It Matters to Timeshare Owners

Claret Connor early this year was named tourism Commissioner. We attempted several times to get an interview with him to discuss timesharing in general and the Caravanserai debacle in particular. Although he had promised to do an interview, it hasn't happened. Now, it appears that the current government of the Dutch side is about to do some portfolio shifting among its top people. It looks like Mr. Connor will be going elsewhere, and someone new will be coming in — possibly someone who may not have any tourism experience, if we understand the situation correctly.

We don't know what impact if any this could have on timeshare owner consumer protection legislation. We hope the impact is positive and that we will have an opportunity to speak with any new appointee regarding timesharing, specifically.

We'll keep you posted, as always. Here's more: <http://tinyurl.com/pyte4tr>

10. Orient Beach Bar / Restaurant Demolition Completed

The first part of the complete rebuilding of Orient beach bars and restaurants between KonTiki and Pedro's, which was the demolition of all existing structures, has now been completed. We've posted pictures of the demolition and the result on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

Now, demolition debris is being removed and site preparation will soon be underway. The beach will appear much wider since new construction will be a distance to the rear of former structures.

If you're on the island and have pictures of the activity at Orient beach, we welcome you to post those pictures. First, you need to request to join the group; we generally approve such requests within 24 hours. Then, post away.

11. Where You Can Download Our 1000th Edition

If you missed the 1000th edition of St. Maarten Weekly News, published last week, check out our St. Maarten weekly news PDF archives page. There, you can download any issue we published since April of last year, listed in reverse chronological order. Here is the location:

http://everythingxsm.com/xsm/free_newsletters/xsmweeklynews.shtml

The page is scheduled for update on 7/12/15.

12. Sea Turtle Hatchlings Video

As we've mentioned before, this is the season when endangered sea turtles return to the place of their birth on the beaches of St. Maarten to lay eggs. The turtles are protected as are their hatchlings, so if you become aware of any nesting locations please stay away.

Here is video shot last Thursday of hatchlings headed toward the ocean on a St. Maarten beach:

<https://www.facebook.com/jovan.halley/videos/10152587331651195/>

13. Where To Buy Insect Repellents Before Traveling to SXM

An article in a recent edition of *Good Housekeeping* magazine had some interesting information about the cost of insect repellents at various retailers.

It noted that a 6 ounce spray can of Cutter Backwoods insect repellent sold for \$7.91 on Walmart.com, but was available for \$3.97 inside a Lowe's store.

That doesn't mean that Lowe's offers the lowest price on all insect repellents. Deep Woods Off was least expensive, at least for its 4 ounce spray, at Walmart.com, with a price of \$5.88. Both Walgreen's and drugstore.com were more expensive but Lowe's was close at \$5.97.

The bad news: aerosols are not allowed to be packed in checked luggage.

14. **Good Housekeeping** Offers Tips on Rescuing Waterlogged Cell Phones

We don't generally quote *Good Housekeeping* magazine here, but the July issue did have two interesting articles; the first one is above.

The second article regarded protecting your phone from water and what to do if it gets wet. The article noted three steps if you want to try to fix your phone yourself. If your phone was briefly submerged or lightly soaked, dry the phone, battery casing, and SIM card with an absorbent cloth, the GH article points out. The second step is to bag the phone and its removable parts (the battery and the SIM card) in a sealed bag of absorbent material such as uncooked rice and put it in a warm spot. The third admonition from GH is to wait; give it 24 hours before you remove your phone from its safe haven and try to turn it on again.

The fact that phones drown is a good reason to insure them with your carrier. We had also previously written about Samsung Galaxy android phones which had been advertised as being waterproof and useful for some limited underwater photography. Don't do it; the ads have stopped after a number of the phones got wrecked when people tried this, as we wrote previously.

15. Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusions on Some Medical Evacuation Membership Plans

Many medical evacuation plans, SkyMed included, exclude coverage of pre-existing conditions for a certain time period when your membership begins. *In the case of SkyMed, pre-existing conditions are excluded only for the first three months of membership; after that they are covered in full.* When you buy an annual SkyMed membership – which costs only about \$1.25 a day — you should buy it well ahead of your trip so, when you're actually traveling, the 90 day exclusion period is over and your pre-existing conditions are covered.

For example, were you to buy a plan now for the next year, your pre-existing conditions would be covered 90 days from the date your membership takes effect. As the Member Services Agreement says, you're covered for virtually everything else from day one. (See your MSA for details.)

SkyMed has had situations where people bought and paid for memberships only to require service a few days later — after their application was approved but before they receive their membership card. The bottom line is that once your application is approved, you are good to go — and approvals usually take only one or two business days.

Without SkyMed, you may have to pay \$45,000 or more in cash in advance for medical evacuation home, if you can arrange it. For most of us, \$45,000 is a huge hit. That's why we always recommend you get SkyMed before you need it. You can buy it here, or you can call Jeff. Here you go: <http://www.skymed.com/jmbsexm>. Call Jeff at 508-747-8281 weekdays 9-5 EDT or call SkyMed directly at 1-800-475-9633 Arizona time and ask for Nan. Tell her if you're a JMB member; if you are, you get a substantial JMB members-only discount.

16. Do You Live Outside the USA or Canada More Than Six Months / Year?

A number of our nearly quarter-million readers worldwide live outside the United States or Canada for more than six months a year. We know that hundreds of you live in St. Maarten for many weeks — some of you for a few months through the winter.

The luckiest readers get to spend six months or more in St. Maarten every year. If you are among those who spend more time in St. Maarten than home, be sure you have the North American Transport Option or NATO from SkyMed. NATO promises to take you home to the US or Canada when you become critically ill or injured even though you don't live in the US or Canada the majority of the year. For more information about this critically important coverage, go here <http://www.skymed.com/jmbsexm> or call us at the numbers in the prior article.

17. What Happened To Mary Fairbrother and Don Thompson in SXM -- And Why It Matters

The following is from long-time *SXM Weekly News* reader Mary Fairbrother (slightly edited for space). Her husband, Don, fell and broke hip in SXM. Here, Mary tells you about the St. Maarten Medical Center and what happened to her and Don:

The background – Don, my husband, fell at the Flamingo Beach Resort – that's another story in itself – and broke his hip. We were transported by ambulance to the St Martin Medical Center, and with all due respect to those who live on St Martin & have to receive healthcare there, it is not a place you want to be. The ED [Emergency Dept. - Ed.] MD was attentive, the staff was very pleasant, but we were not anyplace I wanted to be. The stretcher had dried blood on it, the floor had dried blood smears, the nurses didn't have an independent thought in their head and their concept of pain management was nonexistent as was hand washing before touching a patient. And I am a nurse so I know exactly what I am talking about. But do let me emphasize, all the staff were very pleasant, they just didn't have what we in the US expect to have. And the total hospital bill which included the ED, the overnight stay (in a 5 bed room), radiology, CT scan etc. was all of \$1,204.

...Anyone who travels to St Martin without SkyMed or some other similar [emergency evacuation protection] is tempting fate. The service is excellent and our family plan just saved us about \$35,000 in air transport fees. Contacting them was sweatless; we rent a phone from Sharon's Cell Phone Rentals, Royal Palm. One phone call to SkyMed was all it took. Originally they thought he could go commercial, but when the hip fracture was confirmed they didn't bat an eye & immediately switched gears and made arrangements with Critical Care Med Flight out of GA. I think I read a post a while back about limitations with SkyMed transport but we didn't experience any – I said Providence was where we were going and it happened in a Lear jet. The personnel at SkyMed were excellent – Jim was on top of everything, answered every call and if he wasn't at his desk the receptionist found him immediately. They handled ALL arrangements – ground, air, customs etc. The RN/PM team was also excellent –

Don was a Chief Pilot for Air Med at the University of Utah & the program reported to me so both of us knew what to expect.

So there's Don, on the stretcher, just before they loaded him into the Lear – quizzing the 2 pilots on the flight plan, the Lear capabilities, etc. Pretty funny.

Again I digress - back to SkyMed – a customer service rep called me several hours after we 1st contacted SkyMed – gave me her name – Corinne – and telephone number & told me I was to call her directly if there were any problems at all – she was the liaison with the president of SkyMed & had a direct pipeline. I was impressed. No problems with me riding along but I could only bring 2 carry on size bags with me – weight & balance issues. [SkyMed helps you take care of those issues -Ed.] Flight was long cuz we had to divert around Bermuda as their radar was out and they couldn't see planes in the air.

We got SkyMed [at a discount] thru our JMB Website Supporters membership and it is worth every penny we have paid over the last several years. My advice to anyone going to St Martin is not to tempt fate & strongly consider the annual purchase. I am a very happy & relieved customer.

From Jeff: We asked Mary how Don was doing a few months later. She said, "Don is slowly recovering - after he fell & broke his hip, 10 weeks later he broke his femur - now that's a hard bone to break so we all believe he probably had a hairline fracture of the femur from the original fall. His recovery from the femur break has been much better than the recovery from the hip fx, which makes sense if his 1st recovery was impacted by a hairline fx. So anyway.....we have tickets back to SXM for 3 weeks in March - we always go for the Regatta & decided this year to extend it for an additional week since I retired & have no reason to hurry back."

Much more on SkyMed is at www.skymed.com/jmbsxm. You can buy SkyMed online. Their best plan is the SkyMed Ultimate which gives you five years of protection worldwide for one guaranteed price plus 18 important additional services like helicopter coverage from the scene of an accident or medically necessary hospital-to-hospital helicopter coverage. Those are in addition to the ICU-equivalent, specially equipped medical evacuation jet Mary Beth mentioned. To get SkyMed-related questions answered, call SkyMed directly weekdays at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan. (SkyMed is in Arizona on Standard time year-round.). Tell them you're calling about the article in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*. We've been SkyMed members for years as are many hundreds of JMB Website Supporters members.

18. Anatomy of a Bad Trip to SXM

Texas residents Barry and Marcia visited SXM several years ago, and will never forget that trip.... Here is their story, edited for space. We urge you to read it fully and pass it on to friends . . . it could easily save a life.

June 28th, Flew in from DFW for 21 days. Marcia and I were staying at a hotel on the beach in Cupecoy.

July 4th, went to party at Baywatch but it rained.

July 5th, Day 7 out of 21, I [Barry] started feeling under the weather.

July 6th, Went to Doctor. X-rays showed extreme case of pneumonia.

July 7th, Was worse and Marcia called the doctor and he came to our room and told us to go to the emergency room. I was put in ICU.

July 8th, Condition worsened.

July 9th, 1:00am I was put on the ventilator and kidneys and liver started shutting down. Marcia started looking for a way to get me home, but getting it approved through our insurance was out of the question on a Friday. I don't know how she managed it, but \$21,000 later an air ambulance out of North Carolina headed to SXM and arrived at 11:00pm. The airfield closes at midnight, so after a wild ambulance ride to the airport, pulled up to plane at 11:35, loaded, and took off. Since I was in a sedated induced coma I knew nothing about it. Marcia had to hold my head to keep it from banging against the side of the ambulance on the ride to the airport.

Early July 10th, Landed at Miami, pilot runs in and checks us all through customs and we proceed to their hanger to refuel.

5:30am arrive at DFW and get in ambulance to hospital. An hour later, doctor tells Marcia I have a 30 to 50%

change of living over the next 24 hours but I start improving.

Tuesday July 13th, They do an open lung biopsy to try and determine the diagnosis. I did test positive for Legionnaires Disease. I was possibly infected in the hotel room, either thru AC ventilation or water in hot tub [or by drinking contaminated water elsewhere –Ed.]. I most likely caught it due to my resistance being low from the problems I'd been having since February. The in house lab couldn't determine what else so they sent the biopsy to the Mayo Clinic and it came back some Interstitial Lung Disease (just a general term that could mean a number of diseases.)

I was in a sedated coma until Saturday July 17th. I woke up in restraints with tubes coming out of my mouth. I was in ICU and it was between visiting hours so I was alone in the room so not knowing what had gone on over the last 10 days I thought I was in some kind of jail. That afternoon they took the tubes out of my side and mouth and moved me to a regular room.

Monday they had me walking around with the help of a walker and dragging an oxygen bottle. They released me Thursday the 22nd with 24 hour oxygen, a strong antibiotic, and a 28 day heavy steroid program. The steroids has induced diabetes (temporally most likely), so now I have to check my blood sugar three times a day and have had to take insulin shots after each test.

I have been doing all my exercises and riding my exercise bike like I'm supposed to so I'm getting stronger every day. I go back to the lung doctor the 31st, and should be able to get off the oxygen at least during the day.

[End of Barry & Marcia story. See next story for much more on this subject.]

19. Medical Care Away from Home

Tim, whose qualifications you'll read about in a moment, read of Barry's experience (see previous story) and has these comments. He says, "Bear in mind that my perspective is that of a traveler (business and pleasure); as an ICU director; and as a trauma surgeon."

Here is Tim's advice. We strongly suggest you forward this story to anyone you know who ever ventures more than 100 miles from home:

1. First and foremost, best wishes to Barry and congratulations to Marcia. She did everything exactly right and, from their reports, may well have saved his life.
2. Travel has gotten less expensive and easier in recent years. Travelers have become older and somewhat more adventuresome. The combination is important, because it predicts that a health/illness related event is more probable today than it was in the past. I am overseas four or five times a year on lecture tour or on (SXM!) holiday. I ALWAYS have a travel-related health policy that provides for repatriation (transport back to the USA). For frequent travelers like myself, the best way to do this is with an annual policy that costs a few hundred dollars a year. For the occasional traveler, this can be done as trip-specific insurance. Others have pointed to websites that offer comparisons. For what it's worth, I have used the Travelex policy for years. Parenthetically, they offer delayed luggage insurance and they actually do pay the claims. (This might not be credible for a trip to Club O [the naturist resort –Ed.], but it was when I had to lecture in Philly and my bags ended up in Phoenix...)
3. Travelers owe it to themselves to be familiar with health problems that are endemic at their destinations. This shouldn't put a damper on their holiday, but it can be life-saving. For example, if you travel to SXM [or anywhere in the Caribbean – Ed.] and have never heard the term "ciguatera toxin", take a moment to Google it and read one of the summaries, perhaps on eMedicine. [From Jeff: I was stricken with Ciguatera toxin in SXM after having an absolutely delicious Red Snapper at a restaurant in Philipsburg in 1996. Good info on Ciguatera is at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ciguatera>.]
4. If you have a medical condition and are traveling transoceanic, remember to take a list of your medications and keep it on your person, and take some of your essential medications with you. About every third or fourth transoceanic flight, there is an overhead page "If there is a doctor on board this flight, please ring your call button...". The crew is quick to tell me that they can be in "radio contact with Mayo (or Hopkins, or...)" which is just fine but pretty useless when the aircraft is 3000 km from anything resembling real medical care. The on board supplies that are carried on transoceanic flights are pretty thin.
5. If you do happen to get sick, really sick, while traveling, hope that you have a "Marcia" with you who can act as your advocate. The U. S. embassy, consulate or even military base can help. Here is a perfect reason to get a passport and not horse around with a birth certificate. Those of you who have a US passport, open to the first page and follow along: "The Secretary of State of the United States of America hereby requests all whom it may concern to permit the citizen/national of the United States of America named herein to pass without delay or hindrance AND

IN CASE OF NEED TO GIVE ALL LAWFUL AID and protection" (emphasis added). Medical aid is certainly lawful, and citizens have been known to turn up at military bases requesting same. I am not suggesting that as a first choice, but as a last-ditch approach. There is nothing on the birth certificate about all lawful aid, etc. Anyone out there still trying to travel on just a birth certificate? [From Jeff: We have always strongly recommended overseas travel with a passport. Now, of course, they're required.]

6. Some parts of the world have terrific medical care. Others are a lot weaker. If you're traveling and aren't sure, surf. If the medical care is plus/minus and the patient is sick and getting sicker, medical evacuation is key. We use it all the time in the USA to get patients from smaller, less well equipped hospitals to major trauma centers and teaching hospitals. It DOES make a difference as Barry and Marcia found out.

7. Aircraft are packed with people from all four corners of the globe. It doesn't take long to transmit infectious agents worldwide. That shouldn't prevent people from flying. However, if you do get a serious illness, let the airlines that you have been flying on know what has happened. The recent history of the SARS epidemic (Far East to Toronto) is a fitting reminder of how fast contagious illness can move by air.

8. Legionnaire's Disease was unrecognized until 1976 and acquired its name from an outbreak in Philadelphia at a convention of the American Legion. The convention was held in a venerable hotel (I had stayed there as a child) and was seemingly spread as an aerosol through the ventilation system. It continues to crop up periodically in hotels and hospitals especially. Fortunately, it is sensitive to two commonly available classes of drugs: the quinolones (like Ciprofloxacin) and macrolides (like Azithromycin). The latter is available in a blister pack called a Z-Pac. If you're traveling outside routinely available medical care, having a Z-Pac in your travel kit (along with the ibuprofen, the Imodium, the diphenhydramine [Benadryl]) can be reassuring and maybe even lifesaving.

9. If you are going to some really exotic place, make sure you tell your physician well in advance AND check the web for recommended immunizations well in advance. Travel medicine is a lot more specialized than it was even a couple of decades ago, and the best way to get out of trouble is to stay out of trouble.

10. Maybe most importantly, travel with confidence but make a plan ahead of time for what you're going to do if someone's health unravels. As Barry and Marcia's story illustrates, it can happen in a hurry.

20. An Immediate Choice for Medical Evacuation

SkyMed is the best and it is NOT expensive. See www.skymed.com/jmbspecial for our members-only discounted SkyMed prices. Your JMB membership will be verified. Normal low SkyMed prices are here: www.skymed.com/jmbsxm.

Without SkyMed, you must pay for your medevac jet in cash in advance -- easily \$45,000 or more. Get SkyMed before you need it. See the above stories for details or click the links above.

21. Three Vacation Giveaway Drawing Set for August 4; Your Final Chance To Enter

Enter today -- the main qualification is you must be a subscriber to this newsletter, not a pass-along reader. If you're a pass-along reader, subscribe now at www.everythingsxm.com by clicking the "Free Newsletters" link and following the instructions.

To celebrate the 1,000th edition of *SXM Weekly News*, we're giving away three SXM vacations. Here's where:

[Summit Resort Hotel](#), Cupecoy Beach;
[L'Esplanade Boutique Hotel](#), Grand Case; and
[Club Fantastico Naturist Resort](#), Orient Beach

These vacations will be awarded only to *SXM Weekly News* readers who enter the giveaway. Previous JMB vacation winners are not eligible.

Enter to win your vacation here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/weeklynews1000/index.htm>

Drawing date: Tuesday August 4 between 930 a.m. Eastern and 11 a.m. Eastern. If you don't answer your phone, we hang up and call somebody else.... We'll let you know when we'll cut off entries but it's soon, so enter

today.

22. How To Get Your SXM Euro-Ovals

We are continuing to accept orders for our very popular copyrighted SXM Euro Oval stickers -- green lettering on a white vinyl background with twin palm trees in the background. They measure 5 3/4" x 3 3/4". You've likely seen them across SXM.

You can now order your own... We're currently offering them to our *SXM Weekly News* readers at economical pricing. They are one for \$5 or three for \$10. We use them on our cars and on smooth hard-sided luggage, which makes the luggage very easy to spot on carousels. They're printed on durable vinyl to last long. And they have a varnish coating to help protect against fading.

You can pay us through PayPal (have the payment go to jeff@jmbcommunications.com) but please specify what you're ordering and where they're to be shipped. Include your phone number. Buy some for friends too... If you want more than three, just place multiple orders.

Or pay by check payable to JMB Communications but again please specify what you're ordering and where they're to be shipped (all must go to the same address). Include your phone number. Buy some for friends too... Mail your check to SXM Weekly News Ovals, c/o JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.

N. B.: Orders are shipped only to the USA and Canada. Allow six weeks for delivery. Questions about the ovals? Address them to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SXM Ovals. JMB members, please see our recent emails to you about SXM Euro Ovals for important info.

23. Restaurant of the Week: Daniel's By The Sea

Without a doubt, Daniel's By The Sea in Dawn Beach is one of the most romantic of all SXM restaurants.

It offers dining under the palms just steps from the beach. Daniel Jurczenko has spent his life in restaurants and knows his stuff -- and he uses time-tested authentic family recipes that bring home the flavors you expect, plus very generous portions. Service is excellent and desserts are especially appealing.

Lobster lovers can select their own from their large, well-stocked pool of Saba lobsters. You'll find yourself dining with many repeat customers including St. Maarteners who have made Daniel's one of the largest and busiest of all SXM restaurants.

Daniel's has also won our coveted Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence three years in a row -- and that is not easy. Highly recommended.

See past Restaurant of the Week businesses below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details. We'll cover another restaurant here soon.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 4/6/15)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/23/15)
SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 6/15/15)
Cugini (featured 12/8/14)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 5/11/15)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 7/13/15)
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 8/11/14)
Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 2/23/15)
Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 1/26/15)
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)
Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>
Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/19/15)
Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 2/23/15)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 5/18/15)

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/2/15)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/4/15)
Coconut Grove (formerly SPN Cafe), <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html> (featured 8/18/14)
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there). (featured 4/27/2015)
FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 4/13/15)
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/10/14)
Topper's / Topper's By The Sea <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 6/29/15)
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15)
Bylbos, Simpson Bay
Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

Doesn't Your Business or Practice Deserve a Website That Works?

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

Marketing-Centric / Client-Focused, and created by JMB!

"Websites that Work," part of JMB Communications, offers substantial discounts to JMB Website Supporters members.

Many helpful website-creation-related articles are on our site, which was recently revised. Check it out.

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Page Updated Every Other Weekday

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13) Returns Next Issue

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .

SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 12/31/14

Please see our site, www.everythingsxm.com.

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsxm.com/secret , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at

support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 9/7/13)

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *2014 St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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