

#1005 --- August 10, 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

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
for Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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Part of www.everythingsxm.com

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Important Note:

You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have over 240,000 readers around the world...

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, and Android Users

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

You can also download a PDF of recent editions here:

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

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Just enter your email address at the top, and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, just click the confirming link and you're in.

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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21 new stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at

http://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 237+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.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.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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2. The Two Most Popular SXM Beach Cams; Update on Orient Beach Reconstruction
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St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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Section Four: For Members Only (Revised 12/31/14)

- 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 password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- 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. Introducing our SXM "Weather Bug"

This week our www.everythingsxm.com site launches a Weather Bug on its homepage. The "bug" will show you the temperature, current weather, and forecast directly from the weather station at Princess Juliana airport. Once the bug is live, we'll post details on our everything St. Maarten Facebook page:

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

For SXM-related tropical weather satellite images, radar loops, and more, just click Weather on www.everythingsxm.com.

2. The Two Most Popular SXM Beach Cams; Orient Beach Reconstruction Update

In prior issues over the years, we've listed a number of St. Maarten and Caribbean beach cams here in *SXM Weekly News*. Today, we simply want to list for you the two most popular beach cams: Orient beach at Club Orient from the Perch bar, and the Maho beach WebCam at Sunset Bar and Grill. Here they are:

[Club Orient Beach Cam](#)

[Sunset Bar & Grill Webcam](#)

Meanwhile, down the beach at Orient, reconstruction of all the intentionally demolished bars and restaurants between Pedro's and Kon Tiki is actually getting going. You can see current photography right here, at our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/> Scroll down on that page for recent postings.

3. Simplest, Easiest Way to Buy Airfare

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.

4. More Calls Inside Congress To Investigate Airline Pricing

Inside the U.S. Congress, pressure is building for an investigation of airline pricing practices. Some members of Congress are saying that airlines' practices make it impossible for passengers or would be passengers to accurately determine and compare fares. The proliferation of fees makes the whole process of buying fares a jungle, some are saying.

The airline industry, of course, says things are just hunky-dory and it has never been simpler or easier to understand. The industry is dead wrong, of course, and we hope that Congress forces them — especially the legacy carriers who blazed the trail for new fees and charges — to truly simplify things and help make travel simple

and hopefully fun again.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. At Caravanserai / Alegria, Waiting For The Other Shoe to Drop

Meanwhile, back at Alegria/Caravanserai, where things started heating up on a legal front over the last few weeks, we are still waiting to see what's going to happen next.

There is an interim case at the Court of First Instance in St. Maarten; there is the apparently avowed intent of the airport to oppose the height and location of a proposed parking garage as part of the Caravanserai redevelopment project; and then there is the anticipated major court action against Alegria by former Caravanserai timeshare owners.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

6. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week: Seventh 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. In this series we've been talking about several of them. Each one we list will be added below, most recent first.

Some resorts just never make the news. They go about their business in an effective, consumer-oriented way, make no enemies, but also make no headlines.

That's the story behind the Bel Air Beach Hotel, overlooking the Caribbean near the Southwest corner of the island.

A timeshare resort for as long as anyone can remember, Bel Air offers suite accommodations and achieves great customer satisfaction, based upon a number of communications we've received in recent weeks from timeshare owners there.

One thing that's particularly interesting to us is that we don't often receive timeshare units for rent or sale at Bel Air — testimony to the fact that Bel Air timeshare owners are very happy people who like to use their own units every year. That says a lot.

Best timeshare resorts covered so far in this series:

Bel Air Beach Hotel www.belairbeach.com (8/10/15)

Royal Palm Beach Hotel <https://www.diamondresorts.com/Rentals/royal-palm-beach-resort> (8/3/15)

Summit Resort Hotel www.thesummitresort.com (7/27/15)

Divi Little Bay Resort <http://www.diviresorts.com/divi-little-bay-beach-resort-st-maarten.htm> (7/20/15)

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

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

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

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

Watch for more next week.

SECTION 3: Island

7. Important Note About This Issue

Our initial concept for this issue, early last week, was happy. Last week, we gave away three St. Maarten vacations to celebrate the 1000th edition of this publication, issued a few weeks ago. In case you missed it, you can see it in

our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives.

We were also planning to announce our new seven-vacation giveaway which will celebrate [our site](#) reaching 4.5 million visits by early next year.

Then, at midday on Thursday, everything changed. The following stories tell you more.

8. Heroic Police Intervene To Stop Would-Be Jewel Thieves in Philipsburg

Last Thursday started off as a normal mid-summer day in Philipsburg. Cruise ship passengers, more than 10,000 of them, had disembarked, and most of them were on the streets of Philipsburg. Some jewelry store owners told us it was "pretty busy," a welcome respite in what has been a relatively quiet summer for retailers.

But in the middle of the day, two young men entered the smallish Oro Diamonte jewelry store just a few doors away from both Parliament, which was in session, and the historic courthouse in the center of town. They were armed with guns and hammers, and they appeared to know what they wanted -- they immediately started hammering at jewelry cases containing diamonds.

Bicycle policemen are in heavy presence in downtown Philipsburg to ensure that stayover tourists, cruise ship passengers, and others can thoroughly enjoy their visits to the island. Seemingly in seconds, the bicycle policemen were at Oro Diamonte to stop the attempted robbery. There was gunfire, with one of the perpetrators hit. The other perpetrator, allegedly the person firing at bicycle police, dropped a goodly portion of his loot onto Front Street when he ran away and disappeared.

Members of parliament were adjourning when they heard the gunfire and there was initially fear that a gunman would go after members of parliament, but that did not happen.

One perpetrator had shot bicycle officer Gamali Benjamin in the neck, back, and leg. It was not known at the time, but the bullet that entered "Benji's" neck had lodged in his brain.

Both Officer Benjamin and the alleged perpetrator who had been shot were rushed to the St. Maarten Medical Center while an intense manhunt started searching for the second gunman island-wide. As of Sunday night he had not yet been caught, but there is no doubt he will be.

If there is any good news here, it was that St. Maarten police reacted quickly and forcefully to stop a crime in progress. Equally important, no store personnel, customers, or any other bystanders were hurt.

Unfortunately, the story doesn't end there. As of late Sunday, the manhunt for the perpetrator who allegedly fired the shots at the police was continuing. One additional arrest has already been made — of a person who is accused of hiding evidence.

More follows in the next two stories.

9. A Hero Passes, And a Nation Grieves

(continued from story 8)

At the hospital, bicycle officer Gamali Benjamin, a young father, was rushed into surgery. Although surgeons were able to stop the bleeding, officer Benjamin was in a coma and was not responsive — and St. Maarten does not have a trauma center, at least not yet. There has been talk of an "American Clinic" here but that has still not been finalized; when it has been, a trauma center is likely. The island needs one.

Arrangements were made late in the day Thursday to Transfer officer Benjamin to a trauma center in the Dominican Republic, and he was flown out late in the day.

The following morning, after significant surgical and post surgical intervention, specialists declared officer Benjamin brain-dead. He was flown back to St. Maarten near noon on Friday and was taken by ambulance back to St. Maarten Medical Center where his fellow officers and his family could see him and decide whether and when to remove life support.

The entire island became galvanized in prayer, praying against high odds that officer Benjamin would get well. His family elected to continue life support.

But on Saturday afternoon, bicycle officer Gamali Benjamin quietly passed away. The nation is in mourning for this valiant, heroic young officer, the first St. Maarten police officer ever to die in the line of duty.

As late Sunday, we have not received final word on funeral plans. But very early Monday morning, the Daily Herald reported that the government was planning "official honors" at his funeral. That story is here:

<http://tinyurl.com/nejqszh>

We will publish information on the funeral on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook page](#) as soon as we receive it.

More follows.

10. Nation Galvanizes to Fight Crime in Honor of Officer Benjamin

Despite the fact that the island has made remarkable progress in its crime fighting efforts over the last few years, resulting in a statistically significant reduction in violent crime, the island is outraged by what happened last Thursday. A national manhunt continues for the second person — the one who allegedly shot Officer Benjamin. And there are calls for much more action against crime — calls which in fact are already being answered, as we detail below.

The outpouring for Officer Benjamin is unprecedented, both publicly, in churches, on the streets, and in social media.

Here is the story about *initial* new efforts to thwart crime: <http://tinyurl.com/nmjuxmt>

Please see the next story.

11. "Gofundme" Account Set Up To Help Officer Benji's Family

Connecticut-raised Jeffrey Sochrin, the Dr. Soc of island 92 radio, on Sunday announced a gofundme campaign on the island to help support officer Benjamin's family. As of Sunday evening, just 14 hours after the campaign began, it had already received approximately \$4400 in contributions.

Officer Benjamin, like thousands of other police officers everywhere, left his home every day to serve the people of the SXM community and to serve people like you -- tourists from around the world. How much you give is unimportant — but that you give, is extremely important. Here is the gofundme address:

<http://www.gofundme.com/bh2frtbs> Please donate.

More stories follow.

Advertising, Sales Promotion, PR, Publicity, and *Complete Website Strategy, Copy, & Design* (Traditional or WordPress).

It's what else we do.

See www.jmbcommunications.com for more.

12. Cuba's Open Arms To Yachts & Megayachts May Signal Trouble for SXM

It looks like Cuba, home to 700+ miles of gorgeous beaches just a few hours by boat from Florida, has already started luring US yachts and megayachts to the island -- even before it has top-drawer facilities to accommodate them.

And it's on a fast-track to get bigger in the yachting sector. Here's the story:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/international-business/article30396381.html>

SXM may be the king of megayachts in the Caribbean now, but the new kid in town is putting together some powerful new lures.

13. We Just Gave Away Three SXM Vacations: Here's Who Won

The three vacations celebrated the 1,000th edition of *SXM Weekly News*, which we published a few weeks ago. *Weekly News* is the most relied-upon source of tourist-oriented SXM news and information in the world, with over 240,000 readers. Here are the winners:

1) Tamara Rodriguez of SXM (by way of California) won and immediately gave her vacation to Denise Stuard, from Missouri, who selected L'Esplanade Resort in Grand Case, French Side. Tamara is the former owner of Ric's Place in Simpson Bay and works aboard the Celine Too motor yacht for Capt. Neil Roebert.

2) Jack Jackson of Massachusetts won and is looking forward to his vacation at Summit Resort Hotel in Cupecoy, Dutch Side.

3) Initially a lady named Georgi won a vacation at Club Fantastico, the naturist resort overlooking Orient Beach, but she we think yielded to modesty and asked us to give that vacation to another winner. See next story.

14. "Renewal" Characterization of Trips To SXM Earns Karen & Rick a SXM Vacation

You never know what can come from "liking" our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook page](#):

Several days ago, we asked what one word you'd use to describe your number one takeaway from a SXM vacation. We received hundreds of replies but one really stood out: *Renewal*.

The young woman who suggested it was away with her husband so we didn't announce her name until she had responded to our messages. Her prize was to be among the "final 50" for the seven-vacation giveaway we're formally announcing in this *SXM Weekly News*. But we didn't offer her that...

Instead, we offered her the Club Fantastico vacation Georgi had declined (see previous story) and she took it in a flash; she, too, had entered that giveaway and was a "final 50" choice there as well (lucky lady). She and her husband, Rick, plan to go later this year.

Important Note: The 5,000th person to "like" our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook page](#) will wind up in the very same Final 50, so go to our page and "like" it. You never know....

15. Announcing Our Seven SXM Vacation Giveaway Celebrating 4.5-Million Site Visits

We expect to surpass 4.5-million visits to www.everythingsxm.com during the first half of 2016 -- or conceivably earlier -- depending literally on how often you visit the site. (Do it often and we'll give away vacations sooner.)

Here's where you could be going:

- Mary's Boon Beach Resort;
- Oyster Bay Beach Resort;
- La Vista or La Vista Beach
- Summit Resort
- Baker's Suites
- Club Fantastico
- *Hotel L'Esplanade OR Le Petit Hotel OR Blue Pelican*

It is highly likely that we will be adding more vacations, and it is quite certain that we'll be adding dinners for two and much more. Watch next Monday's *SXM Weekly News* (and tell your friends to subscribe free to Weekly News at www.everythingsxm.com); next week we'll post a link to the online entry form right here. No envelopes, no printing, and no stamps necessary to enter -- it's all online.

Please also see important info in story 21.

16. Be Our 25,000th JMB Member and We'll Send You on Vacation to SXM

This month, we expect member number 25,000 to join JMB Website Supporters. Since businesses that hit a big number like to celebrate, we decided to do that too. We are very close to 25,000 now and have decided that whoever joins us for the first time as a new member and becomes member number 25,000 will win a vacation in St. Maarten.

How It Works: Our 25,000th member will be picked to receive a St. Maarten vacation when we draw the winners in our new seven-vacation SXM giveaway next year. So join -- right here:

http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Prices are low:

- 1 year, \$59
- 2 years, \$79
- 3 years, \$95; and
- 5 years, just \$125 (\$25/year)

What you get:

*This is a partial list. We currently offer **about 237** benefits with more coming.*

To see all the categories of discounts and benefits we currently offer, [go here](#).

- **MILITARY DISCOUNT (New):** Join for just \$25 for one year. You must fax your military ID (with the number obliterated) to us at 508-749-7898 when you sign up using PayPal. Join using the one-year \$59 rate below. When we receive your military ID fax, we'll send you a refund via PayPal for \$34. If you join for a longer duration than one year, you still get the \$34 refund. Not applicable to reinstatements or sale prices. You must send the fax within 10 calendar days of joining.
- **SUPER LOW-COST AIRFARES:** We monitor the lowest available fares from more than 100 cities in the U. S., Canada, and a few in Europe and post them on our [Low Airfare Grid](#), where you can access them 24/7/365. Our fares include all taxes/fees. We also email you news of extraordinary fares. Many fares for winter 2014 were \$449 or less round trip including all taxes and fees. Low airfares alone are worth the price of subscribing. *Our fares should be considered guidelines of what you should pay since fare changes can happen several times a day.*
- 50% OFF MEMBERS-ONLY SUNSET LAGOON CRUISES EVERY TUESDAY aboard Neil Roebert's Celine Too motor yacht, including free beer and other beverages. Good through 12/31/2015.
- FREE \$25 GIFT CARD FOR CARIBBEAN GEMS JEWELERS in Philipsburg.
- FREE \$25 GIFT CARD FOR ZHAVERI JEWELERS in Philipsburg.
- Restaurant Discounts at dozens and dozens of restaurants across the island, some including a free bottle of wine or glass of beer or wine. Among them: Pineapple Pete, Spiga, Topper's Restaurant and Bar, Topper's By The Sea, Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Island Pizza, The Stone Restaurant, Skipjack's, Byblos, Cugini, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, IZI, Daniel's by the Sea, Crave, Vesna Taverna, Le Pressoir, and many other

restaurants across the island. [Offers vary by restaurant.]

- FREE ADS TO SELL OR RENT OUT YOUR TIMESHARE, VILLA, OR CONDO ON OUR SITE: Sell or rent out up to 10 weeks you own in SXM **or anywhere worldwide** per 12-month period. Many owners in the past have sold or rented out their units in just a few weeks. Ads are free for members and there are NO COMMISSIONS. You can order highlighting to make your ad stand out. [See ads here](#).
- BUTTERFLY FARM discounts on admission.
- ST. MAARTEN ZOO discounts on admission.
- DEEP-SEA FISHING DISCOUNTS with an experienced Dutch Side Captain.
- TOP-CLASS HOTEL ROOMS OR TIMESHARE CONDOS FOR \$449 PER ROOM, PER WEEK: With our exclusive discounts off Cheap Caribbean's regular low rates, you may pay less than the maintenance fees timeshare owners pay on the exact same units. Take more vacations for short money! (Members only; details on Members' Website. This rate available with "SXM Surprise" Packages only. Members-only code required.)
- SHARP DISCOUNTS ON PUB CRAWLS AND TINTAMARRE CRUISES on Capt. Neil Roebert's "Celine Too" motor yacht.
- DISCOUNT ON THE ST. MAARTEN PARTY BUS
- HEAVILY DISCOUNTED EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION PROTECTION through SkyMed International, the program that guarantees to "take you home." Should you become critically ill or injured and require an emergency air ambulance home, the cost is usually over \$45,000. Our members get about \$1000 off SkyMed Ultimate 5-year plans as well as discounts on annual plans. Much more on SkyMed is on our members-only Secret Website. SkyMed delivers emergency travel home from anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, or Costa Rica: short money for great peace-of-mind. Cuba is now included, too, for legal visitors. Add protection worldwide for just \$99 more / year.
- MEMBERSHIP REFERRAL BONUS gives you a free one-year extension of your membership once you refer just one individual to us who joins and mentions you. Get one free year of membership for every new paid membership you refer.
- MANY MORE MEMBERS-ONLY BENEFITS: You'll receive complete details when you join.

No purchase is necessary to enter this vacation celebration. But we do guarantee that member 25,000 will receive a St. Maarten vacation when we do the seven-vacation giveaway early next year.

17. Monthly Entertainment Calendar

Every month, we post the Presidente Entertainment Calendar. You'll find it here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/EntCal.pdf>

You'll also find it simply by clicking "Entertainment Calendar" in the vertical navigation bar in

www.everythingsxm.com.

18. "Tech Talk" Column Returns; Advice About Windows 10

"JMB Communications" began life 25 years ago as a high-tech PR outfit. We still do that, plus much more. Now we're restarting an occasional tech column we had published years ago for the benefit of our computer-using readers....

If you're planning to upgrade your Windows 7 or Windows 8 or Windows 8.1 system to Windows 10, we urge you to be extremely cautious, for two reasons.

First, every other Microsoft operating system seems to be fraught with bugs. Many of you will remember the story

of Windows 3.0, the first huge Microsoft abomination. Many more of you will remember Windows Vista and Windows 8, which were equally horrible.

Second, Windows 10 is one of those every other operating systems. From what we hear, is far better than most of its odd-even predecessors, however it is not perfect. It lacks many of the drivers that more mature operating systems normally have, which means it may not be able to run some of your printers or other peripheral devices. Worse, some programs don't work on it, such as some versions of Nuance's Dragon NaturallySpeaking speech recognition software. That is a major productivity program for millions of users that apparently still doesn't work on Windows 10 -- at least some versions don't.

Here at JMB Communications, we have one system that we're testing with Windows 10 and it has had the identical problems we're mentioning here.

Regardless of what you do, we strongly recommend these three steps:

1. Do not download and install Windows 10 on any major workhorse system. Understand every system on which Windows 10 is installed becomes a guinea pig. You do not want your computer to be a guinea pig, especially if you depend on it for important work.
2. If you have an old (non-primary, non-workhorse) system that uses Windows 7, Windows 8, or Windows 8.1, install Windows 10 there and see what happens. Make sure all of your critical programs are also on that old system, so you can see if they work under Windows 10. *Don't use your main system for what amounts to an experiment.*
3. Finally, if you see no problems, we urge you to wait at least three months anyway before installing Windows 10 on any important system. The reason is that Windows 10 does have bugs, and you want to give it time for the guinea pigs to find those bugs and for Microsoft to hopefully fix them. You also want to allow time for all of the necessary drivers to be incorporated in the downloaded software.

One more thing. If you think there would be no harm downloading Windows 10 and then installing it later on a main workhorse system, think again. Microsoft will allow you to download the software, but will then insist that you install it within a couple of days. Don't bother. Although it is possible to reverse a Windows 10 installation (which we already did on one test computer), it takes time to do that and you shouldn't have to bother. You have until July 29 of next year to install; we suggest you wait as long as possible if you are satisfied with what you're already using — and most people are quite satisfied with either Windows 7 or Windows 8.1. Life is just too short to experiment with good but still-buggy new software

We'll publish future editions of tech talk occasionally here in *SXM Weekly News*.

19. Restaurant of the Week

Domino's Pizza in SXM -- yes, the very same Domino's you'll find across the USA -- has delicious new pizzas, great "two for" deals, and discounts for JMB members at its St. Maarten locations.

Here are their deals: 1) Buy Any Large 3+ Topping Pizza at menu price, get 2nd Medium Pizza w/ 1 topping free; or 2) Get a free 2 liter Coke or Stuffed Cheesy Bread with the purchase of any Large Pizza at Menu Price. These discounts apply every day and they require your current JMB Membership Card and the voucher on the Secret Site.

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 8/10/15)

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)

20. 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.

This offer will expire for the winter in October. Order now.

21. New Pictures Posted of Orient Beach Reconstruction (and Other Important Stuff)

In case you missed it in Section One, at Orient, reconstruction of all the intentionally demolished bars and restaurants between Pedro's and Kon Tiki is actually getting going. You can see current photography right here, at our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/> Scroll down on that page for recent postings.

If you're on the island, we welcome your SXM pictures -- especially of the work at Orient.

Bear this in mind, too: the 5000th member of that page on Facebook will be entered in our "final 50" finalists for the seven-vacation SXM giveaway covered in story #15. So go there, like the page, and you could very well win a SXM vacation. You never know...

Advertising, Sales Promotion, PR, Publicity, and Complete Website Strategy, Copy, & Design (Traditional or WordPress).

It's what else we do.

See www.jmbcommunications.com for more.

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret .

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

Please see our site, www.everythingsexm.com.

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsexm.com/secret , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at [support\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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.everythingsexm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.

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

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