

#1010 --- Tuesday, Sept. 8, 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 PDFs of all 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.

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

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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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- *Former SXM Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams Unhappy With Slow Pace of Timeshare Legislation***
- *Editorial On Timeshare Legislation: Why Would SXM Allow Foxes To Run The Hen House?***
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27 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://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 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:

Available in our free subscription version.

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

Available in our free subscription version.

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.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 "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Facebook Site:



<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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- 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. Next: Tropical Storm Grace?

As of this morning, Tropical Storm Grace was forecast to weaken to a tropical depression and dissipate into a tropical wave before nearing the Lesser Antilles. Its ultimate course is uncertain but as of now, it was expected to bring badly needed heavy rain to SXM Friday and Saturday.

Despite the possibility that the storm will dissipate, tropical storms are notorious for their independence so this one still needs to be watched. Should Grace hang together (not likely) and approach SXM, we will post the latest advisories on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site as we receive them. Here is the link:

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

2. Important Reminder to Reconfirm Your Flights

United has been cancelling former Continental nonstops to SXM from EWR willy-nilly. Regardless of what airline you fly, do reconfirm several days ahead of your flight dates; you do not want to be surprised at the last minute.

3. A Great Source of Low Airfares & More Available Free to JMB Members

JMB Website Supporters now gives you access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on packages not just to the Caribbean, but worldwide.

Retail travel sites — the ones whose names you know very well — are heavily regulated. But private travel clubs like this, which normally charge members prices for membership/admission, are regulated differently and consequently, can offer much better pricing.

The organization providing these travel benefits has been traveling under the radar for 25 years and is only now making its travel reservations prowess publicly known. It's SkyMed Travel Club and it is entirely separate from the SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service we've been recommending to you since shortly after the millennium.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have been testing it for months and have found the pricing to be extraordinary — even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a tourism phenomenon throughout Europe and are quickly gaining popularity here in the US.

And normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Exclusively through us, you get access to a world-class global ticketing mechanism without paying one cent to get in the door. Go to the members-

only Secret Website and click on the Low Airfare Grid for details on the SkyMed Travel Club. Log in through the orange login box below the masthead at everything.sxm.com. Your username is the email address you have registered with Membership Services. If you forgot your password, click "forgot password" in the login box.

Do join — you will not be disappointed once you've booked through them. Not a JMB member yet? See story #13. Membership is on sale but *the sale ends this Friday*.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

4. Alegria Owner Ray Sidhom Is At It Again: Going After "Dream Bar" Owner in Court

Not too many weeks ago, Marty of Marty's Dream Bar at Alegria won a battle in court against Alegria. Alegria had tried to evict the Dream Bar but the court ruled he had a lease and what Sidhom tried to do wasn't Kosher.

Now Sidhom, who isn't likely to win any popularity contests among "former" Caravanserai timeshare owners, is taking Marty to court again apparently seeking the same result he previously failed to achieve.

Marty posted this on his Facebook page:

Alegria wants Dream Pool Bar evicted again.
Alegria vs. Dream Pool Bar.
September 11 2015
Historic Courthouse 14.45 p.m.
"Open seating come all."

5. Former SXM Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams Unhappy With Slow Pace of Timeshare Legislation

Former SXM Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams has expressed displeasure with the slow pace of timeshare owner consumer protection legislation on SXM, which most agree is long overdue. This is the SXM *Daily Herald's* story on her comments, which also contains other significant information: <http://tinyurl.com/ou8ymry>

6. Timeshare Legislation Editorial: Why Would SXM Allow Foxes To Run The Hen House?

As you see when you read the article referenced in the prior story, St. Maarten continues to work on what has been generally referred to as timeshare owner consumer protection legislation.

Any such legislation that the island considers should be drafted by people who are familiar with timesharing from a consumer protection perspective. The St. Maarten Timeshare Association, though it is a venerable organization and one of integrity, is nonetheless an association of timeshare developers and resort owners — *not* individual timeshare owners who are consumers of the product offered on the island.

It looks to us as though this legislation does not involve timeshare owners *at all*, and that it does not adequately address their needs and their perspectives. To us, that is a huge flaw and one glaring deficiency that will be painfully obvious to timeshare owners.

In fact, it may be worse than that. Timeshare owners could easily regard such legislation as window dressing -- something that insults their intelligence and in practice would not adequately protect them. That perception may not be reality, but at this point to timeshare owners perception *is* reality.

Tens of thousands of former SXM timeshare owners have walked away over the last several years. They have been replaced by people who bought their former timeshares for pennies on the dollar and who, many Front Street

business owners say, window shop instead of buy and eat in their rooms instead of go out to dine. In other words, they do not contribute to the SXM economy, which is major fallout from inattention (or inadequate attention) toward timeshare owners in the past. That fact also means less turnover tax collected than would otherwise be possible. What is good for timeshare owners is good for SXM -- and the opposite applies equally.

Although St. Maarten's timeshare product today is one marked by quality, one only has to look at the recent past to see numerous issues which the government seemed to politely ignore. The worst, of course, was the situation at Caravanserai, during which hundreds of timeshare owners protested to the government in St. Maarten media and to which there has never been any impactful, effective, and forceful government response.

Sarah Wescot-Williams is correct when she says the island needs timeshare owner consumer protection now. We are simply saying it must be the real thing. Anything else would be counterproductive and further damaging to the island's economy.

7. Why You Should Avoid Looking for Timeshares on Facebook

In recent years, it has been repeatedly demonstrated that anyone can post anything on Facebook — or on the Internet as a whole, for that matter — regardless of truth.

In that vein, anyone can innocently ask in Internet forums for rental suggestions for vacations. Many of you have read about widespread scams concerning rentals that either don't exist or that were offered without the owner's knowledge or consent.

On our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site, we do not allow anyone to post timeshare weeks for rent or for sale. The possibility of scams is simply too great. When we see such posts, we remove them unless they were posted by our own staff people.

You should be very cautious on Facebook with any rental transactions. For specific warnings on specific scams, look at the top of our rental and sale page: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

8. Why Our SXM Timeshare Sale / Rental Ads Are The Best Source of SXM Timeshares

Our www.everythingstmaarten.com website includes hundreds of listings of timeshares for rent or for sale, and other condominiums as well. We accept ads only from paid JMB Website Supporters members. Before anyone can submit an ad, we retain information on them for the member database. Consequently, we know who the people are who are posting the weeks and we can respond should there be any issues.

As you can well understand, the ability of members and of buyers/renters to use the site without any issues is of overriding importance to us. If you want to rent or buy a timeshare or other property, definitely use our site: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

If you want to rent out or sell a timeshare you own, join JMB Website Supporters through this link: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

The ability to place timeshare ads (for SXM or anywhere) is one of 238 member benefits and discounts, and more are coming.

9. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week: Tenth 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.

Dawn Beach Club has been touted as one of the finest St. Maarten timesharing resorts, and for good reason. Affiliated with the Westin St. Maarten Resort, Spa, and Casino, it's on Dawn Beach and offers perhaps the widest

array of amenities of any SXM timeshare. Look at it closely.

We also suggest you go to our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and ask there about specific resorts and about the *recent* experience of people there. *Recent* matters greatly -- you won't benefit from yesterday's news.

Timeshare resorts covered so far in this series:

Dawn Beach Club <http://www.dawnbeachclub.com> 9/8/15
Princess Port de Plaisance Resort: <http://princessportdeplaisance.com> (not many good pictures) 8/31/15
Atrium Resort <http://www.festiva-atrrium.com/> (8/24/15)
Flamingo Beach Resort <https://www.diamondresorts.com/Flamingo-Beach-Resort> (8/17/15)
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 & La Vista Beach: <http://www.lavistaresort.com> (6/29/15)
Royal Islander: <http://www.royalislander.com/> (6/22/15)

Watch for more next week.

10. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Association to Admit New Members (It's a Big Deal)

TOCA, the association of Caravanserai timeshare owners that won a suit against Ray Sidhom's Alegria (formerly Caravanserai) Resort a few weeks ago, is accepting new members. That's big news since it may just help those long-suffering owners -- whose timeshare ownerships were nullified by Sidhom when he took over the then-ailing Caravanserai Resort at auction -- to get their timeshares back plus compensation.

In case you missed that, *the Court recently ruled that the litigating timeshare owners were entitled to get their units back plus compensation.* The ruling is to be appealed by Alegria / Sidhom.

For more information on the benefits of joining the litigants, and the cost, contact Caravanserai TOCA at tocagroup@gmail.com. If you receive any information you'd like to share with *SXM Weekly News*, email it to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *SXM Weekly News*.

SECTION 3: Island

11. A Note From Scott Berger About His Personal Fight With Brain Tumors

As a two-time brain tumor survivor I am very passionate about the search to find a cure for Brain Tumors. Having had these two brain tumors I truly understand the need to continue to fund research to combat brain tumors.

The National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) is putting the search for a cure into overdrive. Progress is being made, but there is much more that needs to be done. Please support these efforts:

- Follow our team page on Facebook for more information and updates. In addition this year, we have some experiences and items we will be giving away to random donors:
<https://www.facebook.com/thebergandtheburb>
- The National Brain Tumor Society is aggressively driving strategic research that will lead to therapies for adult and pediatric brain tumors. On a national level, The National Brain Tumor Society advocates for public policy that meets the critical needs of the brain tumor community and also provides comprehensive information and resources. I believe in the National Brain Tumor Society - won't you join me by making a gift today?

It's easy to make a gift online - or you can print a donation form to send a gift by mail. Thank you for your consideration - your gift means the world to me.

Please help:

http://www.braintumorcommunity.org/site/TR/TeamraiserEvents/BTW-AZ?px=2963787&pg=personal&fr_id=2430

Or use this shortened link: <http://tinyurl.com/nhzvvd>

12. Introducing Our 25,000th JMB Member (He's Getting a SXM Vacation)

Roy McLeod became JMB Website Supporters member #25,000 last week and as a result, he will be called by us during the first quarter of next year to receive a St. Maarten vacation. We had mentioned here in *SXM Weekly News* for weeks that member 25,000 would win a vacation and that is exactly what's happening.

Congrats also to Dave Burton who referred Roy to us. Dave gets a one-year extension on his JMB membership for the referral and sign-up and will also be among the 60 finalists when we pick the winners in our eight-vacation giveaway.

For more on the giveaway, including how to enter, see story #17.

13. Final Week: Labor Day Membership Sale Ends This Friday

Our Labor Day Membership Sale offers low prices on new memberships, renewals, and reinstatements; JMB membership now gives you 238 discounts and other benefits across SXM. See pricing and details below:

New memberships:

\$49 for one year but *much less per year* for multiyear memberships.

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

Renewal memberships:

One year \$34; Seven years just \$99: www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

Membership Reinstatements:

One year \$35; Five years \$89; Seven years \$115: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

14. Miss India St. Maarten, Dipti Budhrani, "Miss Social Media" in Mumbai Ceremonies

Dipti Budhrani, daughter of Henna and Deepu Budhrani of SXM, months ago was named "Miss India St. Maarten" and last week she competed in the Miss India Worldwide pageant in Mumbai, India. She received a Tiara and was named *Miss Social Media*. We're sure we'll all hear a lot more about Dipti in the years ahead.

15. Many Grand Case Restaurants Are Open This Month

Since September is the height of the hurricane season, and since most North Americans and Europeans are back at work during September and not traveling, the gourmet restaurants in Grand Case (or many of them anyway) have normally been closed that month. That's not the case this year, when a good number of Grand Case restaurants will be open. So, if you're visiting the island in September, don't forget those restaurants.

16. SkyMed On Sale: Lots of Life-Saving Benefits, Low Cost

If you've been thinking about buying SkyMed but just haven't gotten around to it, this is the time.

SkyMed takes you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling — home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust. With rare exceptions, your medical insurance from the US or Canada isn't valid in St. Maarten. There is also no trauma center in St. Maarten, and the sophisticated medical treatments available at leading US hospitals have no equivalent in St. Maarten. So if you become critically ill or injured, you really do need to get home to the US or Canada and get the help you need.

Thanks to this sale, that has now become a whole lot easier. There are two key reasons.

First, for every year of SkyMed medical evacuation protection you buy from us during the sale, you get an equivalent year of JMB Website Supporters membership free, on us, which brings you an increasing spectrum of benefits and discounts, soon to number close to 250. If you are already a JMB member, we will extend your membership on us for a number of years equal to your new or upgraded SkyMed membership. If you are not a JMB member and buy SkyMed through us, we will establish a JMB Website Supporters membership for you equal to your new or upgraded SkyMed membership's duration of one year or more.

SkyMed costs next to nothing when you buy it for a few days (less than \$18/day per family), or it costs \$499 for a family plan covering an entire year. *The critically important advantage of buying yearly coverage is that you are covered for as long as you continue to renew your membership regardless of your age or health at the time of the renewal.* Buy a "short term" plan for a week or so, and you must requalify medically every time you re-apply.

That same crucial benefit also applies if you get a SkyMed three-year or five-year "Ultimate" membership, the best they offer. (It's also what Jeff has had for a number of years).

The SkyMed Ultimate normally sells for a three-year or a five-year term. One critical advantage of the Ultimate — besides the fact that it covers you around virtually the entire world — is that you are covered in case the price of crude oil makes a U-turn and starts skyrocketing again -- which in fact it seems to be doing right now. Since medical evacuation jets use expensive jet fuel, current pricing for SkyMed annual memberships may increase with the cost of jet fuel. A five-year Ultimate membership will cost you either \$59 per month per family, or much less if you prepay it and are a JMB Website Supporters member.

The price is considerably less when you prepay. Non JMB members pay \$3495 in advance for five full years for the five-year Ultimate; JMB members pay only \$2495 through us — and remember, because of the bonus we mentioned above, when you sign up we will also sign you up for JMB membership *enabling you to save \$1000 on a five year Ultimate membership that is not available for the same discounted price to nonmembers.*

For answers to questions about SkyMed, or to sign up, regardless of whether you are a current JMB member, and to get these JMB membership bonuses and discounts, call JMB Communications weekdays during normal business hours at area code 508-747-8281 and ask for Jeff. This offer can be withdrawn at any time, so please do it soon. That's \$1000 off a five-year Ultimate plus a free JMB membership or membership extension -- available only by calling our office. You can learn more about SkyMed at www.skymed.com/jmbxsm but these JMB discounts are not available online. JMB members only, see www.skymed.com/jmbspecial .

When you sign up for the bonus SkyMed memberships as shown above, email susan@jmbcommunications.com and tell us. We'll verify the signup and that it is through us, then process your bonus. But do it soon... this won't last forever.

17. How to Enter Our Eight-Vacation Giveaway

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 these 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*
- Simpson Bay Resort

It is likely that we will be adding still more vacations, and it is quite certain that we'll be adding dinners for two and much more.

Enter here:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

Full rules are on the page.

18. "Rima" Souvenir Emporium Offers 36% Discounts Exclusively to JMB Members

Remember the huge "Rima" store on the pondfill, Philipsburg, where you could buy tons of souvenirs at great prices? Until now Rima-style beachwear, loungewear, hats, dolls, kidswear, and boatloads of souvenirs were available only from kiosks on the island... no retail stores. And those kiosks only carried a fraction of the former store's wares.

Now the Rima website -- which brings everything "Rima" online -- will sell to JMB members at a huge 36% discount, the biggest discount they've ever offered to anyone. Shipping is free for all orders of \$40 or more to the USA, Canada, and the UK. The discount will apply regardless of how much or how little JMB members buy.

And lastly, the discount has now been posted on the Secret Site and is live.

Discounts are for JMB members only. Don't expect to order at discount until you have the necessary info from the Secret Site; look up "Shopping" and "Souvenirs" and "Beachwear" in the Discounts Master Index on the Secret Site and you'll find Rima. The Rima site is www.rimasxm.com. You will need your current, valid JMB Membership Card when you order, plus info you'll find on the Secret Site under Rima.

More stories are below.

It's Time You Joined JMB Website Supporters and got all the discounts and benefits we offer:

We offer 238 right now, more coming -- in time for your next trip. LOW SALE PRICES NOW IN EFFECT but they end soon. Learn more by clicking the page curl atop our home page at www.everythingsxm.com.

19. Chikungunya Update

Chikungunya, the mosquito borne disease found in tropical regions worldwide, made an unexpected and unwanted visit to St. Maarten in December, 2013. That season, a number of tourists canceled reservations because of fear of the virus. Eradication measures since then have made Chikungunya rare — something that has been helped by the current drought. But be cautious and do use bug repellent anyway.

Chikungunya is only transmitted by the Aedes-Aegypti mosquito which you probably have never seen. It is about the size of normal mosquitoes but it is black with white markings on its leg joints. Jeff has only seen one in all his travels — the one that bit him in December of 2013. Fortunately, a week after he killed it, he found out that it was not a carrier of the virus. Only mosquitoes that have bitten an infected person can become carriers — and then only Aedes-Aegypti mosquitoes.

So, now, the news is good. You would be hard-pressed to find any Chikungunya around St. Maarten today.

20. Where to Get The Latest SXM Forecast

You can get the latest weather observations from St. Maarten — temperature and current weather — on our homepage, www.everythingstmaarten.com, or by clicking Weather on our homepage. The Weather page also gives you much more information about tropical conditions including a number of satellite images and radar loops, all current. Check it out.

21. Where to Find The Latest Tropical Storm / Hurricane Advisories When SXM Is Involved

When St. Maarten is threatened by tropical storms or hurricanes, we post the latest advisories on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site, here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

Years ago we emailed these to JMB members, but we stopped doing that some time ago as part of an effort to reduce email volume. It also takes a few hours for e-mail to reach a large audience; in that sense, Facebook is faster.

22. Looking for SXM Real Estate? Start Here

An increasing number of North Americans are being drawn to the possibility of year-round living on St. Maarten. So, we've partnered with the island's top real estate agents — the folks at Island Real Estate Team — to bring you a number of listings on our site.

Island Real Estate Team is headed by Arun Jagtiani, St. Martin's top real estate agent. He knows island real estate extremely well, so he should be your go-to person for guidance if you're looking for an island home. You'll find their current listings here:

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/sponsors/st-maarten-st-martin-homes-villas-businesses-comme.shtml>

23. Splash Jewelers at Pelican Is Robbed Again

According to Dutch Side police:

Three armed men dressed completely in dark clothing with their faces covered stormed into the “Splash Jewelry Store” located in Simpson Bay Resort on Friday September 4 at approximately 11.30 a.m. The suspect threatened the staff that was present with their firearms and then smashed the showcases and took an undisclosed amount of jewelry. After committing this act they jumped into an awaiting vehicle and fled in the direction of Cole Bay. Several police patrols and detectives were informed of the incident and started to search for the suspects. During the search the suspect vehicle was located in Cole Bay but the suspects had already fled the scene leaving the vehicle behind. The suspects are still at large. This case is being investigated by the Special Robbery Unit.

24. Restaurant of The Week

This feature is taking a break for September and will return next month. See many previously featured restaurants below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details.

Featured previously:

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); Cugini is no longer open.

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 5/11/15)

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachxsm.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 8/31/15)
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 8/31/15)
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)
Mario's Bistro, moving to Porto Cupecoy, Dutch Side www.mariosbistro.com (featured 8/17/15)

25. Tech Talk: The Importance of Backing Up (Cloning / Imaging)

We saw a T-Shirt in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Mass., a while back that said "Backing Up is For Sissies." Truth is it is for anyone who does not want to lose all their hard work.

We are longtime advocates of multiple simultaneous backups. You want to be sure that critical personal and-or business data cannot be lost no matter what happens.

For that reason, cloud backup should be one of your options. Our preferred source of cloud backup is crashplan, which was recommended to us several years ago by a very senior Adobe technician. It is reliable, fast, readily configurable, and inexpensive. See www.crashplan.com.

You should also back up to one or more external hard drives. Plus, you should do two types of backup: one is an image of your system, which would allow everything to be restored including programs should your hard drive crash and you need to install a replacement hard drive. The second type is a clone, which is an exact copy of your current drive. A clone lets you search your directories for critically important personal or business files if there's a problem with those files on your system's hard drive.

Some people use two or three external hard drives. If something happens to one of them, data is still secure and local.

For years, Norton Ghost was the foremost backup product for PCs. Paid versions of Macrium Reflect are just as good and are simple and fast, especially if your system has USB 3.0.

Check next week for another Tech Talk. If you have suggestions for future columns, email jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com and use the Subject "Tech Talk."

Index of all Tech Talk stories (alphabetically):

Backing Up #1010
Defragmentation #1006
Uninterruptable Power Supplies #1007
Windows 10 #1005

Access these stories in the issue # noted above in our *SXM Weekly News* PDF Archives pages, here: http://everything.sxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

26. Get Your SXM Euro-Oval Stickers

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, and we posted them on Labor Day on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site.

You can now order your own... We're currently offering them to our *SXM Weekly News* readers at economical pricing. They are 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. Sorry, no Canadian checks.

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.

27. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page

Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which has been around for several years, covers SXM happenings in words and pictures from its thousands of users, and enables people to ask questions, get answers, post trip reports, etc. We also post things there between issues of *SXM Weekly News*.

Besides that ... the 5000th person to "like" that page will be among the "Final 60" people we call when we give away eight vacations early next year. You are welcome to join our Facebook Site.

28. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look right here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Advertising, Sales Promotion, Marketing Collateral, 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://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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.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.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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