

#1011 --- Monday, Sept. 14, 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*

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2015. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

Part of www.everythingsxm.com

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week. "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address. For Contact info, see Contact Us at the end of this newsletter.

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.

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:

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

-- Storm "Ida" Possibly Forming In Eastern Atlantic; May Affect SXM 9/18-20

-- Former Caravanserai Timeshare Owners, Now Eligible to Join Litigation, Are Doing So: Read This Entire Article

-- What Happened Friday When Alegria's Ray Sidhom Pursued "Dream Bar" Owner in Court Again

-- First Caravanserai Injunction Ruling to be Appealed, But the "Main Case" Is Still Due

-- Where's The Best Place to Rent or Buy a Timeshare?

-- Orient Beach Bar/Restaurant Reconstruction Report

-- September Membership Sale Extended One Final Week, But It Must End Friday Sept. 18

-- Jim Goldman & Elisa Cohen Working on "Shanghai Brasserie" for Porto Cupecoy

-- Reflections on a Legend: SXM En Plein Air Impressionist Sir Roland Richardson

-- Neil Roebert / Celine Too Motor Yacht Extends 50% Discount on Lagoon Sunset Cruises Through 12/2016

-- How to Enter Our Eight-Vacation Giveaway

32 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:

RENTAL 10/3/2015 10/10/2015 Week 40 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Sleep 6 unit(D3).Overlooks Simpson Bay a newly renovated unit features a two bedrooms with King beds two baths,two Murphy beds in the living room. The kitchen is fully equipped with new granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances and a seat 6 dining area. Enjoy the views of Simpson Bay and amazing sunsets from the balcony. Resort amenities: gated security, 6 large swimming pools, swim up bar, tennis courts, snack bars, a casino, a deli, fully equipped gym, gift shops, water sports and access to a private beach. Many great restaurants on site or within walking distance. Renter pays \$50.00 Timeshare tax upon departure. \$1,000.00 Jane (203) 209-8299 eberlewm@optonline.net

RENTAL: January 16 to January 23, 2016 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Resort on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces sunny Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean Sea. Includes a genuine Jacuzzi whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker, marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, mini-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar -- all on the ocean. Close to Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis World), many great restaurants including Dino Jagtiani's multi award-winning Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie Rouge on the French Side, with famous Orient Beach not much more than 20 minutes away. And did I say incredible restaurants? Asking only \$1099 for rent or \$3799 to buy. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email jeff@jmbcommunications.com

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE 1/16/2016 1/23/2016 Week 3 Diamond Resorts Flamingo Beach Resort Deluxe beachfront studio (7120) at beach level on the Dutch side of St. Maarten facing Simpson Bay; just a few steps from the beach. Fully equipped kitchen, king size bed and convertible sofa. Sleeps 4. Veranda with table, chairs and chaise lounge. 2 TVs and DVD player. This resort has 2 beautiful beaches, a large infinity swimming pool, on premises restaurants, a French bakery, a deli and many other amenities., Many excellent restaurants very close by. Close to airport and convenient to excellent shopping in Philipsburg and Marigot. \$100 plus \$250 title transfer fee Yale 5166796733 yrosen@optonline.net

SALE: January 16 to January 23, 2016 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Club on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean sea. Includes a Jacuzzi® whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker, marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, mini-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar -- all on the ocean. Close to Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis World), many great restaurants including Dino Jagtiani's Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie Rouge on the French Side, and did I say incredible restaurants? Reduced to \$3799 (negotiable) to buy or \$1100 to rent. Photos available. Phone (508) 747-8281 and ask for Jeff or email susan@jmbcommunications.com .

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 "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://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.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Section One: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather [Go To This Section](#)

1. Remnants of Grace Were Expected To Bring Much Needed Rain to SXM
2. Storm "Ida" Possibly Forming In Eastern Atlantic; May Affect SXM 9/18-20
3. Drought, Possibly Caused by El Nino, Continues
4. Caribbean Drought Causing French Side Ponds to Dry Up, *Daily Herald* Reports
5. It's a Wise Time to Buy Your Winter Tickets to SXM
6. A Great Source of Low Airfares & More Available Free to JMB Members

Section Two: Accommodations (**Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**) [Go To This Section](#)

7. What Happened When Alegria's Ray Sidhom Pursued "Dream Bar" Owner in Court
8. First Caravanserai Injunction Ruling to be Appealed, But the "Main Case" Is Still Due
9. Former Caravanserai Timeshare Owners, Now Eligible to Join Litigation, Are Doing So; But Read This Entire Story
10. Where's The Best Place to Rent or Buy a Timeshare?
11. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week

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

Section Three: Island [Go To This Section](#)

12. September Membership Sale Extended One Final Week, But It Must End Friday 9/18
13. Orient Beach Bar/Restaurant Reconstruction Report
14. Dutch Side Member of Parliament: Dutch Side Grocery Prices are Too High
15. Low US Gas Prices Not Reflected in SXM
16. Elisa Cohen Working on "Shanghai Brasserie" at Porto Cupecoy; Jim Goldman Assisting
17. Why Is Maho Increasing Store Rents Again?
18. Reflections on a Legend: SXM *En Plein Air* Impressionist Sir Roland Richardson
19. Neil Roebert Extends 50% Discount on Lagoon Sunset Cruises Through 12/2016
20. Do You Own a SXM-Based, Tourist-Oriented Business? If So, Read This:
21. The Best Place in SXM To Dine Under The Palms...
22. Continental Dining With a Caribbean Twist: Canoa, Great House Marina, Dawn Beach
23. When You Leave: Visit Johny Burger, Lillian Wathey's Great Place at SXM Airport
24. The Island's Favorite Smoothies: Vesna Taverna (and Much More)
25. Visit The Butterfly Farm for a Superb Photographic Experience
26. SkyMed On Sale: Lots of Life-Saving Benefits, Low Cost
27. How to Enter Our Eight-Vacation Giveaway
28. Restaurant of The Week
29. Tech Talk: Stopping Malware in its Tracks
30. Get Your "SXM" Euro Oval Stickers
31. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page

32. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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. Remnants of Grace Were Expected To Bring Much Needed Rain to SXM

Forecasters on Friday were saying that they expected a fair amount of rain to fall in St. Maarten between late Friday and Saturday as the remnants of tropical storm Grace crossed over the area. Much of the Caribbean is in a severe drought, so the news was welcomed.

2. Storm "Ida" Possibly Forming In Eastern Atlantic; May Affect SXM 9/18-20

During Friday, another tropical wave came off the coast of West Africa. Forecasters were saying that they expected the system to develop slowly into a tropical storm. It was far too early to know its potential intensity or track, but some forecasters were saying that they expected the storm could impact the northeastern Caribbean by late this week, meaning September 18 to the 20th.

We'll keep our eyes on this system and if it approaches St. Maarten we'll post advisories from the National Hurricane Center on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

3. Drought, Possibly Caused by El Niño, Continues

Meteorologists are calling the current El Niño event in the Pacific one of the strongest in years. Whether the current Caribbean drought is caused by that El Niño is for them to say, but forecasters have been saying there was no early relief in sight from the drought even while forecasting heavy storms for the West Coast this winter — and *that* directly results from the El Niño.

4. Caribbean Drought Causing French Side Ponds to Dry Up, *Daily Herald* Reports

It's a bleak situation in some areas, and El Niño is being blamed. Here's the story: <http://tinyurl.com/opnu7zz>

5. It's a Wise Time to Buy Your Winter Tickets to SXM

If you haven't yet bought tickets for your upcoming trip to St. Maarten, it's a wise time to buy right now. Because of extremely bad weather last winter – and the possibility of the same kind of winter returning this year — reservations are ahead of last year, according to anecdotal evidence we've been seeing. To make sure you get your dates, it's important to book now before the flights you want are sold out. Don't forget to use the Low Fare Grid on our members-only "Secret Website" for low-fare guidelines. You can book your flights through the SkyMed Travel Club, free to JMB members; details are on the same page as our Low Fare Grid.

See the next story. If you are still not a JMB member, you're spending too much in SXM: see story 12.

6. 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 everythingxsm.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 the SkyMed Travel Club and use them to make all your travel reservations; you will not be disappointed once you've booked through them. Not a JMB member yet? See story #12. Membership is on sale but *the sale absolutely ends next Friday*.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

7. What Happened When Alegria's Ray Sidhom Pursued "Dream Bar" Owner in Court

Last Friday, September 11, the Court in Philipsburg was to hear a case between Ray Sidhom and Marty of Marty's dream pool bar at Alegria resort, which Mr. Sidhom now owns.

The judge delayed the case until this coming Wednesday since, he said, he needed more time to review the materials.

The case is now scheduled to be heard at 10 a.m. this coming Wednesday morning -- in Dutch, like all Dutch Side cases.

You may recall that Mr. Sidhom wanted to void Marty's lease on his bar, but the court ruled he couldn't. Mr. Sidhom seems to be going after the same objective in a different way. We'll see how that works for him.

When we hear the results of this case, we'll publish them; if we hear Wednesday, we'll post them on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook site as well: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>.

8. First Caravanserai Injunction Ruling to be Appealed, But the "Main Case" Is Still Due

The first litigation by TOCA, the association of Caravanserai timeshare owners, was successful, in that the court ruled that litigating timeshare owners had to be given back their timeshares plus monetary compensation. That ruling will unquestionably be appealed.

But there is an even more significant case coming against Alegria. We'll give you more details when it happens.

9. Former Caravanserai Timeshare Owners, Now Eligible to Join Litigation, Are Doing So; But Read This Entire Story

Former Caravanserai resort timeshare owners are becoming aware of the fact that the door is now open for them to join the group of other former Caravanserai timeshare owners that is litigating against Alegria, the entity that took over the resort and attempted to declare their timeshare contracts null and void. We aren't going to get into numbers, but it's obvious that a number of them are joining. But the door closes October 15.

If you "owned" timesharing at Caravanserai and didn't sign the form Alegria emailed you, you really ought to join this group.

And if you owned timesharing at Caravanserai and did sign that form, you ought to contact Lexwell attorneys in SXM directly. It seems to us that Alegria's mailing of that form may have been done without following due process.

If so, it may have been illegal and therefore void. If that's the case then victims of this event could well get together and have it overturned in court in SXM. Enough is enough, don't you think?

If you are a former Caravanserai timeshare owner and would like more information about what is being offered by TOCA, the litigating associated timeshare owners, and about costs of participation, you can contact tocagroup@gmail.com. Make sure you provide all the info they might need about your Caravanserai timeshare ownership.

Their communications will answer most of your questions.

10. Where's The Best Place to Rent or Buy a Timeshare?

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 our 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 Right now membership is on sale for just \$49-- see story #12.

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

11. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week: #11

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.

This series is taking a breather this week. If you're familiar with a SXM timeshare not shown here, and feel we should include it, please email us at jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "timeshare of the week."

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.

SECTION 3: Island

12. September Membership Sale Extended One Final Week, But It Must End Friday 9/18

238 St. Maarten / St. Martin discounts and other benefits are yours for a full year for just \$49 -- or \$109 for five years. Our September Labor Day Membership Sale offers low sales prices not only on new memberships, but also on renewals and reinstatements.

Here are prices and details:

New memberships:

\$49 for one year but \$109 for five full years. Other durations available.

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>

13. Orient Beach Bar/Restaurant Reconstruction Report

After all the bars and restaurants on Orient beach between Pedro's and KonTiki were demolished last June to kick off renovation efforts, the foundations of their replacement structures were put in place well behind the location of the original structures to enhance the size of the beach.

Now, the walls of the new buildings are going up, one building at a time. Thanks to tourists like you, you can see photographs showing the progress of the construction of the new buildings on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

We welcome you to join that page (it's free and easy) and submit your own pictures. The project, costing in excess of \$2 million, is expected to be completed sometime in November.

14. Dutch Side Member of Parliament: Dutch Side Grocery Prices are Too High

Now that the Euro is still somewhat close to par with the dollar, it makes sense to shop around for your groceries. The Super U markets on the French side — one just North of the French side drawbridge and the other near Orient Bay — have excellent prices, although their front-end service is hideously slow.

One Dutch side member of the St. Maarten Parliament is charging that Dutch side grocery prices are too high. You'll be interested in his comments: <http://tinyurl.com/op3tqx6>

15. Low US Gas Prices Not Reflected in SXM

US gasoline prices are, it is said, low compared to many other countries.

In some areas of the US, gas prices are approaching just \$2/gallon. In St. Maarten, the cost of petrol is measured in Euros per liter or guilders per liter. The bottom line is that prices are significantly higher than you pay in the US.

The station with the best deal may very well be Cadisco opposite the Super U grocery store near the French side drawbridge in Marigot. Check it out; \$1 equals €1.

16. Elisa Cohen Working on "Shanghai Brasserie" at Porto Cupecoy; Jim Goldman is Assisting

Long-time SXM restaurateur Elisa Cohen, former owner of Bikini Beach bar and restaurant at Orient Beach, is working on a new concept called "Shanghai Brasserie" which will be located at Porto Cupecoy on the site of the former New York Brasserie. Jim Goldman, owner of Bamboo (formerly Bamboo Bernie's) is assisting.

It will have a Chinese chef from Taiwan and "an interesting fusion menu," Elisa says. We'll let you know when it's going to open.

There have been rumors of Bamboo moving out of Maho to Porto Cupecoy but those rumors are not correct. In fact, new and "very talented" sushi chefs are joining Bamboo at Maho. "Little Bamboo" is open in Simpson Bay and is doing very well.

We hope to publish more about all three restaurants going forward.

17. Why Is Maho Increasing Store Rents Again?

Restaurants in St. Maarten have to deal with a number of challenges.

First, employees are expensive — and bad apples are not easily fired.

Second, the cost of food is high.

Third, high season — when most of the money is made — is only a few months long, which means you have to keep all those employees on the payroll and pay them even in lean times.

For those reasons and others, it strikes us as bizarre that the Maho folks — who own the entire Maho area -- seemingly quite often raise rental rates for stores in their complex. Come before the season starts, and you will most likely see a number of empty stores. Sometimes, people rent stores only to go out of business in their first year. It's just too pricey.

Want to know why Bamboo Bernies is leaving? We would not be at all surprised if increasing rental rates were involved. But — it doesn't matter: Porto Cupecoy is a much more attractive location and its parking is usually easier.

But Maho should partner with its tenants, like it used to, not put obstacles in front of them that make success more difficult to attain.

18. Reflections on a Legend: SXM *Plein Air* Impressionist Sir Roland Richardson

One of the great pleasures of visiting either side of the island is the opportunity to experience things you simply can't experience at home.

On a visit to L'Auberge Gourmande in Grand Case a few years ago, we saw etchings on the wall -- etchings of the village as it was many years ago. What we didn't realize was that those etchings — and a number of others seemingly created 100 or 200 years ago — were actually created much more recently by Sir Roland Richardson, the near legendary plein air Impressionist who calls French St. Martin home.

Until we first visited his studio on Rue de La Republique in Marigot several years ago, we had no concept of what it was like to watch a master at work. It is a totally incredible, fascinating experience.

Lest you just sit there in his studio with your jaw dropped, you should know Sir Roland is as friendly a guy as you can imagine. Throughout the session he freely interacts with his audience, readily answering questions. You'll immediately catch his contagious fascination with color.

Plein air Impressionism is working from life — from live subjects, not from pictures or from one's imagination. He

paints people, scenes, and often, the island's entire spectrum of colorful flowers.

Just [visit his website](#) and go to the studio when he's painting. You will not be disappointed.

19. Capt. Neil Roebert Extends 50% Off Lagoon Sunset Cruises Through 12/2016

For many years, Capt. Neil Roebert of the Celine Too catamaran / motor yacht has offered significant discounts off his sunset cruises to JMB Website Supporters members. We are delighted to say that Capt. Neil has agreed to extend his 50% discount off the sunset cruises -- exclusively for JMB members -- through the end of 2016. Other discounts are available on other cruises and on charters.

For the information you need to make reservations at these special members-only rates, login to the members-only secret website through the orange login box below the masthead at everythingSXM.com. Your username is the e-mail address you have registered with JMB. If you don't recall your password, you can click the forgot password button to reset it.

20. Do You Own a SXM-Based Tourist-Oriented Business? If So, Read This:

If you own a tourist-oriented business on St. Maarten / St. Martin or neighboring islands who would like to increase foot traffic to your business, and are willing to offer our JMB members discounts or other enticements to patronize your business, you should read this.

JMB Website Supporters currently offers its members 238 discounts and other benefits across the island. We have a number of additional benefits agreed to, and those will be posted very shortly.

For you to participate, we ask for a benefit or discount that will make it worthwhile for people to come and check out/patronize your business. That discount should be better than anything you offer elsewhere since we don't charge you to participate in this program.

For complete information, please write to Susan@JMBcommunications.com with the subject "potential discount or benefit."

Feel free to share this with others. If you're a tourist who knows someone you feel should participate, by all means pass this along to them. If you're a JMB member and talk to a business that later comes to us to offer our members a discount or benefit *and tells us you referred them*, we will lengthen your JMB membership by year as a result. We'll just need them to give us your registered e-mail address.

21. The Best Place in SXM To Dine Under The Palms...

Although St. Maarten / St. Martin has many fine restaurants, very few of them offer dining under a palm tree canopy.

Located on Dawn beach, Daniels By the Sea restaurant — on which we are hooked, and about which we speak often — has the most unique location on the entire island. It's on a very large decking right on Dawn beach. Over the entire restaurant is a canopy of palm trees. You are next to the sea in a scene so beautiful you'd think it was plucked from a Hollywood movie.

During the day, this location is occupied by Mr. Busby's Beach Bar which offers breakfasts and lunches year-round seven days a week with no vacations. At night, candles and tablecloths come out as the restaurant morphs into Daniel's by the Sea. Traditional Italian recipes give you dinners that are painstakingly cooked to perfection. The salads and appetizers are amazing and the dinners can easily stuff you — the portions are that generous. Always leave room for dessert — there is an ample selection including fresh home-baked apple pie that tastes as good as it smells

There's also ample free parking in their own private lot.

By the way: if someone in your party has a hankering for pizza, Island Pizza is next door and they can have pizza

custom-made in minutes and you can have it in the restaurant or to take out.

Daniels also has a lobster pool where you can pick your own for dinner cooked the way you want it.

Daniels by the Sea, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, and Island Pizza all offer discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members; log into the secret website for details. If you're not a member, it's really time you joined -- see story #12.

22. Continental Dining With a Caribbean Twist: Canoa, Great House Marina, Dawn Beach

Canoa is one of very few particularly special restaurants on St. Maarten.

First, it offers Continental dining with a Caribbean twist — something that's not particularly common on St. Maarten.

Second, the food is exquisite from salad through dessert — created by master chef / owner Sherman Maarten who really knows his stuff.

Third, the restaurant is in a beautiful location on the water at oyster pond, within Greathouse Marina, not far from Oyster Bay Beach Resort.

Go to www.CanoaSXM.com and you'll find their menu. A new website is being prepared and will likely be ready by high season; it has more pictures of their awesome dining selections and of the restaurant itself. The only thing that will do the place justice is if you go: just do it.

If you are a JMB Website Supporters member, show your current Membership Card and the appropriate voucher from the Secret Website and you and your spouse are good to go.

Great place....

23. When You Leave: Visit Johney Burger, Lillian Wathey's Great Place at SXM Airport

When Johney Burger in the departure lounge at SXM Airport was in development about 18 months ago, I was one of those lucky people who got to taste the beef mixtures which were candidates for this place's great burgers ... as well as the burgers themselves with all their special accompaniments.

Johney Burger offers a rocking selection of burgers named for various places across the island, each with its own unique set of accompaniments. The burgers are offered on Johnny Cakes -- island rolls that are specially baked for the restaurant -- not fried like some Johnny cakes are elsewhere.

The burgers are really outstanding and give you a great meal before you leave the island. The only bad news is that they're in the departure lounge, so you can't buy them until you're ready to leave, a shortcoming we hope they work on solving soon (they should have an additional location).

24. The Island's Favorite Smoothies: Vesna Taverna (and Much More)

Open for breakfast and lunch year-round, Vesna Taverna during both the high and shoulder seasons also offers dinner several nights a week. We've talked about it in the past and we'll talk about it again: those dinners are imaginative, super-fresh, and delicious. The mussels, steaks, and salmon fillets are among the island's best.

But this time, we're talking smoothies. Vesna uses only the freshest of ingredients to create its smoothies. They are deliciously memorable: put your favorite fruits together and give it a shot. You won't be disappointed.

25. Visit The Butterfly Farm for a Superb Photographic Experience

Despite the fact that it costs next to nothing, a visit to the Butterfly Farm on Coconut Grove Road near Orient beach will be one of the most pleasurable parts of your visit.

Wear something brightly colored and perhaps some perfume, go early in the morning, and you will find yourself attracting butterflies which may just sit on your shoulder to check you out. It's an eye-opening commune with nature that will acquaint you with dozens of butterflies of species you've never seen. It's a great photographic opportunity as well and the entry fee is quite piddling.

JMB Website Supporters members get discounts; check the Secret Website for more information on your Butterfly Farm discount. Log in through the orange login box below the masthead at www.everythingSXM.com.

26. 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/jmbsxm 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.

27. 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. (Visit 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 more vacations, and it is certain that we'll be adding dinners for two and much more.

Enter here:

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

Full rules are on the page.

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.

28. 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.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 7/13/15)
- Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/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)

29. Tech Talk: Stopping Malware in its Tracks

Malware -- though technically not viruses but certainly problematic for your computer -- is bad stuff that can screw things up royally for you.

The king of anti-malware programs is Malwarebytes, whose entry level program is very good and also very free. Google it to find a free download online.

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 (alphabetical):

Backing Up #1010
Defragmentation #1006
Malware: Stopping Malware in its Tracks #1011
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://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

30. 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. This offer will expire for the winter in October.

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.

31. 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.

32. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look right here: http://everythingxml.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://everythingxml.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://everythingxml.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.everythingxml.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.everythingxml.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.everythingxml.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](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.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?>

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2015. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. *Everything St. Maarten* and *Everything St. Martin* are service marks of JMB Communications. *JMB Communications* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com>. You cannot join by emailing us.

Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

To see the JMB Communications privacy policy, visit http://everythingxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml.

9/14/15 #1011 7.9

| [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2015. World rights reserved.

##