

SXM Weekly News, #1013
Monday, September 28, 2015

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Now, the details:

1. Some Dutch Side MPs Thinking About Independence

The Kingdom of the Netherlands continues to watch "country St. Maarten" closely from an oversight perspective. Whether they're using SXM as part of a local political game or are seriously thinking the island is a "banana republic" as one said publicly a while ago, we don't know. But regardless, some local members of parliament (MPs) are thinking out loud that maybe in the next few years SXM should become independent from the Netherlands.

Is it a ploy? We frankly have no idea, but we think it's about as likely as a Christmas snowstorm in Philipsburg.

Then again....

2. At Orient Beach, a Delay in Reconstruction of Bars / Restaurants?

As we've been showing on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/10153046901066367>, good progress is being made on construction of a number of new bars and restaurants where everything between Pedro's and Kon Tiki was demolished in June. The original target date was November; high season truly begins around mid-January. (We've reported extensively on this \$2-million project here over the last year.)

A sticker has been posted on the construction sign which can be interpreted as a delay in completion -- but we're not sure that's what it means. We've not yet been able to contact those concerned to find out.

We'll be back in SXM in November and will go to the scene, photograph what's going on, and we'll let you know.

3. "Fall Fest" Event Set for Oyster Pond October 4

Event To Kick-Off October's "Oyster Pond Festival" Featuring Three-Course, Prix Fixe Menus

"As the culinary capital of the Caribbean, SXM offers the best-of-the-best to please the palate – for visitors and locals alike – offering restaurants serving fine Italian, American, French, and other international cuisine.

"To kick-off the first annual 'Oyster Pond Fall Festival,' participating restaurants will be featured at a free event taking place in the parking lot outside Oyster Bay Beach Resort on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 3 – 7 p.m.

"While patrons enjoy live music, they can sample food from the restaurants (\$5 per plate) where they may want to dine throughout "Oyster Pond Fall Festival" during the month of October.

"Free parking will be available at Casablanca with shuttle service provided.

"Celebrating the island's eclectic cuisine, 'Oyster Pond Fall Festival' will take place during the month of October with five restaurants offering three-course 'Fall Fest Menus' at a \$25 prix fixe per person, plus service charge.

"Participating Oyster Pond area restaurants include The Infinity Restaurant (at Oyster Bay Beach Resort); Beau Beau's Beachside Grill (at Oyster Bay Beach Resort); Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and Daniel's By The Sea; Big Fish; and Canoa – each in the Oyster Pond area.

"For more information about the Oyster Pond Fall Festival, contact the activities desk at Oyster Bay Beach Resort at 1-721-543-6040 or email: ricardop@obbr.com .

4. **Second SkyMed Bonus Added Until 10/31 Only**

This past week, we posted an article on our everything St. Maarten Facebook Site entitled: How To "Beat" The 90-Day Waiting Period on Pre-Existing Conditions Effective on New SkyMed Medevac Memberships

Although the headline may sound a bit devious, it's not devious at all: it's just pure common sense.

SkyMed, the medical evacuation people who take you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling, covers pre-existing conditions after a 90 day waiting period. To make sure you are covered when you travel, just buy your annual or ultimate SkyMed membership more than 90 days before you travel and make it effective IMMEDIATELY. In other words, DO IT NOW.

See www.skymed.com/jmbxsm . Got questions?

Email Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com and he'll be happy to contact you with the answers.

As a bonus, you will get a JMB membership extension or new JMB membership equivalent to the SkyMed term you buy from SkyMed through us during this special promotion. DO IT NOW... and you will have no future issues once that 90 day waiting period is over. JMB memberships are separate from SkyMed and

deliver 239 discounts in SXM.

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 could happen any time. 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 support@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.

What's the second bonus? Get a five-year Ultimate through us and we'll mail you three of our SXM Euro-Oval stickers, from now through 10/31/15 only. They normally retail for \$5 each. US and Canadian residents only. This is in addition to the JMB membership bonus noted above.

5. Attention MSN and Hotmail Users

If you use MSN or Hotmail, you may not be able to read our normal weekly issues of *SXM Weekly News*. Here's why:

Current Hotmail / MSN user software is displaying email headers only on some devices used by some SXM Weekly News subscribers. Other recipients are experiencing no issues at all. We continue to email the entire newsletter to everyone as always, and in fact if you check "source" in your browser you will see the HTML code for our entire newsletter. We've told Hotmail / Microsoft about this problem but they have yet to fix it. In the meantime we suggest you unsubscribe *SXM Weekly News* from Hotmail and resubscribe with a different email; gmail may well be the best.

Another solution: visit our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives, here: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

It shows all recent issues in PDF format. (Being updated by Sunday 9/27.)

This issue applies only to Microsoft's MSN and Hotmail programs and does not affect all devices.

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

Full rules are on the page.

7. Fall Sale Isn't Over (Thanks, Jeff); Get 239 Discounts & Benefits for Just \$49 for a Full Year

Our CEO Jeff Berger, who normally writes *Weekly News*, is taking a few days off and evidently forgot last Monday to take down our September membership sale which was supposed to end that night. So, until he gets back in a couple of days, the sale is still up.

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_xsm/paypal.shtml

Or click the page curl atop our home page at www.everythingsxm.com.

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>

8. Rename SXM Airport?

Could happen. "Princess Juliana Airport" is now widely referred to as "SXM" Airport but that name could change. For now, don't ask; we'll let you know how this sorts out -- nothing has happened yet and no change appears imminent.

9. Seaweed; Weather

In high season, it's cleaned up well on many beaches and it is no issue. It also is widely dispersed throughout the Caribbean and even into the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexico / Texas Coast. And even west Africa.

Interesting story here:

<http://nypost.com/2015/08/10/rotting-seaweed-stinks-up-caribbeans-most-pristine-beaches/>

Current SXM weather remains hot and dry, no real relief from the recent drought. Of more concern to US residents is a possible US East Coast storm. If that becomes serious we'll write about it on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site and on the Jeff Berger Facebook site, <https://www.facebook.com/jeff.berger1> which you are invited to visit.

10. *SXM Weekly News* Full Edition Returns Next Week

Thanks for reading this mini edition.

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