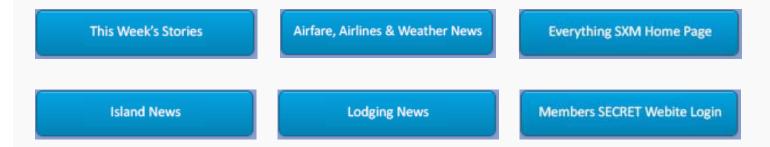
#1014 --- Monday, October 5, 2015 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin





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

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

You can also download PDFs of all recent editions here:

http://everythingsxm.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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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:

- -- Dutch Side Government Falls Again; What It Means To The Island & To You
- -- Calls for Independence Viewed as Real, But That May Not Matter
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- -- Court Decision on Alegria vs. Marty's Dream Bar: Marty Wins, Alegria's Third Straight Loss in Court
- -- Last Call: Membership Sale Ends This Coming Friday 10/9
- -- Orient Beach Bar/Restaurant Reconstruction Delayed?
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28 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://everythingsxm.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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u> 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: 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

RENTAL 2/27/2016 3/5/2016 Week 9 The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort Consists of master suite and junior suite lockout with separate entrances. Master suite has separate bedroom with king size bed, flat screen TV, lots of closets, double vanity, etc. Fully equipped kitchen, dining area, living room with two Murphy beds, TV with compact sound system, and large balcony overlooking Simpson Bay. Junior Suite has two full size beds, kitchenette (small fridge, microwave, toaster, coffee maker) double vanity, excellent closet space., flat screen TV, and its own balcony. Resort has WiFi, fitness center, multiple pools, and everything you would expect from a five star resort. Timeshare tax (approximately \$50) not included. This is the beginning of Regatta Week (3/3) Unit also available for Week 10 so you can also enjoy the finals of the Regatta. Full Villa is \$2500/week or rent Master Suite for \$1700 or Junior Suite for \$1000 Barry 410-558-1080 bglassma@verizon.net

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

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 <u>susan@jmbcommunications.com</u>.

SALE 3/12/2016 3/26/2016 Week 11 & 12 Flamingo Beach Resort Spend two glorious weeks in the same second floor beachfront unit with unobstructed views of the water with balcony. Sleeps 4, king size bed and queen size sofa bed in living room. Full size kitchen with laundry on site. Walk to restaurants, casino, pool, tennis, beach bar and shopping. \$3500.00 per week. Barry 561-434-5027 bklein2733@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml</u>

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

This Week's Stories

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"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Facebook Site:

f Facebook

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

http://everythingsxm.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

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A. Where to Get Member Info: <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>

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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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 <u>GROWING LIST of 230+</u> Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, 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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>. 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. Another Day, Another Injury from Jet Blast Through the Fence at SXM Airport / Maho

Every year, thousands of tourists gather along Maho beach on the Dutch side to gawk at jetliners arriving and departing from SXM Airport. Inevitably, some of them are injured either by flying debris or by the blast from jetliners. That happened again last week.

If you must go to that area, stay away from the fence and avoid the middle beach area where sand and everything else goes flying when planes take off. It's not safe and can lead to serious injury.

2. Lots of Tropical Activity, But None Significantly Impacting SXM

The only weather this week that will affect St. Maarten is a tropical wave expected to cross the northern Leeward islands this Wednesday and Thursday. It's not expected to develop into a tropical depression or a storm, but

hopefully it will bring much-needed rain to the island.

3. Flight Schedules Continue to Fluctuate: Reconfirm

Through the fall, flight changes continue to abound making it possible that your flight could change. The airline may or may not notify you, so reconfirm. It's a nuisance but United Airlines and American both have issues, apparently stemming from their respective mergers.

4. What Should You Pay for Airfare? Our Low Fare Grid Has The Answers

The Low Fare Grid on our members-only "Secret Website" lists fares you should look for when making reservations. The fares have changed little in recent months as airlines rake in mammoth profits from fees and from the low cost of jet fuel. The carriers could do sales but instead pile on profits, in part to help pay off the cost of hundreds of new aircraft -- particularly in the case of AA.

If you're not a member of JMB Website Supporters, know that our low fare grid -- plus a great way to get low fares -- are two of about 240 SXM discounts and benefits you get when you join. See story 5 about a source of low fares and also see story 11 about the sale, which *ends this Friday*.

5. 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 <u>SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service</u> 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 membersonly 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 everythingsxm.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 #11. Membership is on sale but the sale is over this coming Friday.

6. Available to All: FlyTravelGo Is The Easiest-to-Use Travel Reservations Website

Check it out; it's remarkably fast and easy. All profits from our <u>www.flytravelgo.com</u> site help support SXM Weekly News and our SXM island discount program, JMB Website Supporters.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

7. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners: Still Time To Join Litigation Against Alegria

Former Caravanserai resort timeshare owners are becoming aware that the door is open to join the group of other former Caravanserai owners litigating against Alegria, the entity that took over the resort and attempted to declare all timeshare contracts null and void. A number of them are joining <u>but the door closes October 15</u>.

The group, named TOCA, beat Alegria in court. Alegria is expected to appeal but the view of many is that TOCA has an excellent chance to prevail.

If you "owned" timesharing at Caravanserai and <u>did not</u> sign the form Alegria emailed, you ought to consider joining this group.

And if you owned timesharing at Caravanserai and <u>did</u> sign that form, contact Lexwell attorneys in SXM. It seems to us that Alegria's mailing of that form may not have followed due process. If so, it may have been illegal. If that's the case then victims might be able to have it overturned in court in SXM.

If you're a former Caravanserai timeshare owner and want more information from TOCA, contact tocagroup@gmail.com. Include all the info they might need about your Caravanserai timeshare ownership.

See next story.

8. Court Decision on Alegria vs. Marty's Dream Bar: Marty Wins, Alegria's Third Straight

Loss in Court

From Marty's Dream Pool Bar:

"Again Alegria did not succeed to remove us from The Dream Pool Bar, as expected since we do nothing wrong. We are delighted to continue to serve y'all great cocktails and give the best service y'all deserve to the guests at Alegria and anyone visiting The Dream Pool Bar. Thank you to all the peeps around the world for your support. Always fight the good fight. Never give in and never be intimidated."

9. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week #13

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.

St. Maarten Sea Palace is the only timeshare resort actually in downtown Philipsburg. Divi is nearby but not downtown. From Sea Palace during the day downtown is an easy walk.

Sea Palace has been around for years, it's located on Great Bay beach, and it has had significant recent upgrades. Timeshare owners give it very high marks; see <u>http://www.seapalaceresort.com/</u>

We also suggest you go to our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u> and ask there about specific resorts and about the *recent* experience of people there. *Recent* matters -- you won't benefit from yesterday's news.

Timeshare resorts covered so far in this series:

St. Maarten Sea Palace <u>http://www.seapalaceresort.com/</u> Dawn Beach Club <u>http://www.dawnbeachclub.com</u> 9/8/15 *SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News*

Princess Port de Plaisance Resort: http://princessportdeplaisance.com (not many good pictures) 8/31/15 Atrium Resort http://www.festiva-atrium.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.lavistaresort.com (6/29/15) Royal Islander: http://www.royalislander.com/ (6/22/15)

Watch for more next week.

10. Where To Look for Villas to Rent or to Buy

Many villas are not as expensive as you think. They offer great privacy, truly fine personalized service, and some amazing amenities, including awesome views and gourmet kitchens.

To see our top choices for villas, go here: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/where to stay/index.shtml

If you'd like to buy a villa, go here: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/sponsors/st-maarten-st-martin-homes-villas-businesses-comme.shtml

SECTION 3: Island

11. Last Call: Membership Sale Ends This Friday; Just \$49

The final brief extension of our Membership Sale ends this Friday October 9. It won't be further extended. You get 240+ St. Maarten / St. Martin discounts and other benefits for a full year for just \$49 -- or \$109 for <u>five</u> years. Our Membership Sale offers low sale prices not only on new memberships, but also on renewals and reinstatements.

Here are prices and details:

<u>New memberships</u>: **\$49 for one year but \$109 for <u>five</u> full years. Other durations available.** <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>

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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

12. Dutch Side Government Falls Again; What It Means To The Island & To You

It sounds dramatic and in fact it is, but the bottom line is that it has no practical impact on tourists. That's the good news. The bad news is that the government is in a bit of disarray; the current coalition has fallen apart as some Members of Parliament (MPs) have changed their party affiliations, something that seems to happen often in SXM. So the current Dutch Side government is no more.

One source close to those involved says that the expected dissolution of parliament and call for new elections will "cost the country a lot of money" over the next two years. The problem is that SXM has about a dozen political parties with strong personalities -- and coalition governments result. One party can win more votes than any other in an election, but the losers can form a coalition if the total number of MPs they represent constitute a majority.

But coalitions have proved fragile as MPs change affiliations.

Another source close to the government is telling us that the new coalition will form within three weeks and that it will involve the National Alliance, the DP, the USP, Frans Richardson, and two independents who jumped from the UP. All the acronyms are political parties.

Meanwhile, Holland is watching intently. It has been critical of SXM and the fall of yet another coalition probably isn't what Holland wants to see.

We'll keep you posted.

13. Calls for Independence Viewed as Real, But That May Not Matter

When we were discussing the fall of the government last night with a long-time seasoned island source, we asked whether the source felt the calls for independence for St. Maarten from the Netherlands were serious or just chatter. The response: "I think they're serious."

Our impression is that Dutch Side SXM officials don't like what they see as the intrusion by Holland into island affairs. We're also sure they don't like the anti-SXM public insults from some elected officials in Holland -- the use of the derogatory term "banana republic" for example.

Independence will not happen soon, if ever. We'll watch and let you know in SXM Weekly News.

14. An SXM Love Story

Sarah Coalter-Finch and her husband went on a "vacation of a lifetime" to SXM to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary. It was a place they treasure, as do all of us.

"My husband and I just celebrated our 10 year wedding anniversary in St. Martin, the best place in the world. Three weeks later I was laying him to rest after he was killed in a auto accident," she told us. The couple has three young children. See their story here: <u>http://cedarspringspost.com/tag/charles-finch/</u>

"My son's teacher started a gofundme account and we really need it to build as we are waiting for funds to come in. Charles my husband loved this beautiful place. We met tons of locals while we were there and the love around the island is amazing."

Any help you could offer this young family will be appreciated: https://www.gofundme.com/g8g8g8g8gwu5n

15. Restaurant Comings and Goings (Lots)

Reported previously:

a) Mario's Bistro has moved from Marigot to Porto Cupecoy and it's about to do a soft opening.

b) Elisa Cohen, former chief honcho of Bikini Beach Bar on Orient Beach, soon will open Shanghai Brasserie -- also at Porto Cupecoy.

c) Two very well known SXM restaurateurs are opening new restaurants, one in Simpson Bay and the other in the Cupecoy area. They both swore us to secrecy but we'll fill you in as soon as we can.

d) Randy Attin's Fig restaurant, formerly in Cupecoy, is moving to Maho.

e) The long-closed Harbour Restaurant located near the entrance to Isle Del Sol Marina is supposed to reopen this month, according to a sign in front. It's next door to SkipJacks, one of SXM's top seafood restaurants.

f) Ocean Restaurant, Italian, opened Sept.25 at Divi Little Bay; serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

g) Opposite the Gourmet Marche in Simpson Bay is a new Indian Restaurant which we believe has moved from an upstairs location in Marigot. Signage is up; it's across from a car rental storage depot.

h) Le Gourmet Marche in Simpson Bay has closed, though we don't know whether it's for vacation or permanently. It's next to Lal's Curry in a Hurry, which we've recommended for years.

16. Zero Tolerance Dutch Side Gun Control To Be Toughened

In light of the murder of bicycle patrol officer Gamali Benjamin during the Summer -- the first St. Maarten police officer ever to be killed in the line of duty -- and other offenses involving guns, the Dutch Side is further strengthening its anticrime efforts. Details are here, from *The Daily Herald*: <u>http://tinyurl.com/om8qfoz</u>

17. Seaweed Update: Joaquin To Have Any Effect?

For a few days Hurricane Joaquin spun the water into a frenzy in the Bahamas, causing havoc there with its 130+ mph winds and 160 mph gusts. That also stirred up the ocean, but whether it was enough to push Sargasso seaweed (also called sargassum) farther north where it belongs is unknown. When you get here, explore; things change weekly, and a number of recent pictures have shown better conditions on the beaches.

18. Orient Beach Bar/Restaurant Reconstruction Delayed?

Although the progress of construction of the replacement bars and restaurants at Orient beach seems to be proceeding quickly, there is now a sign on the big billboard promoting the reconstruction that implies there will be a delay of a few months in the opening of the new facilities. We're not sure whether that's simply an incorrect inference, or if in fact it's correct. The new buildings are supposed to be open some time during November. It still seems possible to us that this could happen, though it's tight. We expect to be back on Orient beach during November and we'll let you know what we see.

19. Club Orient Reopening; An Early Update on What's New

Club Orient has reopened after its annual closing and has posted these comments on Facebook: "We are thrilled to have our guests home with us at Club O. We had a great first day back and are excited to showcase some of what we've been working on throughout the summer which includes ... state-of-the-art TVs in all of the rooms, new dinner and lunch menus at Papagayo, sleek LED laser focused gooseneck bed lamps ... continuing to beautify the landscaping throughout the resort, 15 units upgraded -- some partially, some completely -- which includes new mattresses, couches, curtains, and more on the way. Come see for yourself."

20. GEBE, The "Electricity" Company, Generates Everything But Electricity

For a number years, the Dutch side electric company, GEBE, usually referred to as geebee, had a problem appearing to be competent. Earlier this year it had improved reliability, but all that went out the window the last few weeks as the utility's service level has plummeted.

All along, GEBE has blamed equipment overhauls and other issues. All utilities overhaul and maintain equipment all the time but somehow they manage to keep the lights on. Somehow, whenever GEBE fixes things, the lights go out which is not convenient for anyone, let alone sensible.

Although GEBE is government owned, it operates like a private bureaucracy and it doesn't like the government's

nose in its business. But, at the end of the day, the government is responsible for making sure that electricity from government owned GEBE is reliable. The government has other issues to deal with right now but we hope they solve this one soon — and permanently.

21. Questions & Answers About Medical Evacuation

Here are updated answers to your questions about SkyMed, the folks who fly you home on an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *It's a life-saving flight that could easily cost you upwards of \$45,000 in cash in advance without SkyMed; thousands of you have bought it through us.* To learn more, see www.skymed.com/jmbspecial .

Q. Why do you promote this?

A. We first heard about SkyMed in a mailing years ago from the old Pelican Resort. We thought the idea had great merit for many people and started promoting it in *St. Maarten Weekly News*.

Several months later, driving back to Sapphire resort after dinner in Grand Case, my wife was very hot and felt nauseous. She started making unusual breathing noises and passed out. Dinner had involved no drinks for either of us and we never drank much anyway; I feared a mini-stroke.

When we arrived at Sapphire minutes later, I immediately called an ambulance. She was treated symptomatically at the resort and later, felt much better.

Although we later discovered that her incident was related to a serious allergy against a certain type of cheese used in a since-defunct Indian restaurant in Grand Case, it was a big wake-up call and we became much more interested in getting SkyMed membership for ourselves.

Later, based on the number of people we were referring to them, SkyMed phoned me and suggested I become a representative. I immediately declined, saying I don't have time which was and is true. The SkyMed executive who had called, Rolly Jodoin, said they would simply provide a webpage for my referrals to use when signing up so SkyMed could track my signups and pay me rep commissions. Instead of simply referring people to SkyMed, I would continue to do what I had done for a number of months and they would compensate me based upon signups. It made sense, since I was joining on my own after being scared by the incident related above and I expected to recommend SkyMed long-term anyway.

That's how it started. I have since signed up several thousand JMB members and readers to SkyMed memberships, *dozens of whom have suffered serious medical emergencies in St. Maarten and elsewhere for which they have had to use the service*. Every one of them with whom I've spoken has told me the evacuation was handled with military precision and consummate professionalism. SkyMed transported them by ambulance from the hospital located near where their incidents occurred to the plane, then by jet to their destination city, then by another waiting ambulance to the hospital where a medical team familiar with the situation was waiting and had a bed for them. *SkyMed makes an average of about three dozen calls to make all this happen.*

Q. What's so special about SkyMed? Aren't these services all the same?

A. Not by a long shot. Most other programs take you to "the nearest appropriate facility," *not* home as SkyMed does. If you're in SXM, that probably means Puerto Rico is where *SkyMed <u>competitors</u>* would take you. Big difference. Some others also raise prices after you reach a certain age. Or they cancel you on a particular birthday. Sign up for SkyMed today and when you reach age 109 you pay the same price as everyone else. No age discrimination at all -- as long as you pay your membership fee you're good to go.

Q. Do they cancel me if I get really sick?

A. No, they don't. Once you're a member, as long as you continue to pay your membership fee your membership continues regardless of your health, if you buy annual or multiyear memberships and keep them in force. SkyMed does not throw you out if you get sick. If you allow your membership to lapse, you will need to reapply to determine of you're still medically acceptable -- so just don't let it lapse.

Q. I have a few medical issues and I'm in my late 60s. Does SkyMed only accept people in phenomenal health?

A. In its brief application process, completed online or by phone or in person, SkyMed asks for your name, DOB, current medications, medical conditions, and hospitalizations in the last six months. It also asks where you want to be transported should you need a medical evacuation. It now also requests your passport number to help expedite

customs / immigration should you require an international medical evacuation flight. The vast, vast majority of applicants are readily accepted. You do not have to be in "phenomenal" health at all.

Q. We stay away for weeks at a time. Do we have to tell SkyMed where we're going?

A. No, you don't. As long as you're home in the US or Canada more than six months per year, you're fine. If you spend more than half of each year away (in aggregate), then you're considered an expatriate (ex-pat) and would need a program custom-tailored for ex-pats because you are away a majority of the time and that means you represent

increased exposure. That program is called NATO - the North American Transport Option.

Q. Does SkyMed cover pre-existing conditions?

A. Yes, after a 90 day waiting period. To make sure you're covered for everything when you travel, including preexisting conditions, just buy your annual or multi-year Ultimate SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of your initial date of travel.

Q. I seldom travel now. Do you have short-term plans?

A, Yes, at about \$18/day per family. Since they only last a specified number of days, they end when the term of coverage ends. If you want another short-term plan later, you must apply again and medically requalify.

Q. I'm from Canada. May I buy it? I have to get back to my province if I'm seriously ill or my health insurance won't work.

A. Americans or Canadians living at home or elsewhere are eligible to buy SkyMed.

Q. Where does SkyMed provide service?

A. SkyMed plans are focused on members' needs. Most members travel within about 34 countries so SkyMed's basic plans cover all those countries: the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba, plus Belize and Costa Rica.

On annual plans you can buy a \$100 annual rider to cover the rest of the world. SkyMed's "Ultimate" plan, available in three- and five-year versions, covers you worldwide except for places you'd probably not want to visit anyway -- such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, North Korea, and Afghanistan, to name some.

SkyMed Takes You HomeTM; What else matters?

For more, see skymed.com/jmbspecial or email Jeff Berger directly at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed. If you include your phone number, he'll call you about SkyMed as well, to answer any other questions you may have including all pricing options. Or call us any day during regular business hours, Eastern Time. Our number is 508-830-3456.

22. Our Double SkyMed Bonus

------ 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 / St. Martin. 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. <u>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.</u> Buy a "short term" plan for a week or so, and you must requalify medically every time you re-apply for another short-term plan.

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.

<u>The price is considerably less when you prepay</u>. **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 508-830-3456 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 shown above, email <u>support@jmbcommunications.com</u> 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.

23. How to Enter Our Eight-Vacation Giveaway

We expect to surpass 4.5-million visits to <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

Full rules are on the page.

24. Time Running Out To 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. <u>Or pay by check *payable to JMB Communications*</u> 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 mmweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SXM Ovals. JMB members, please see our recent emails to you about SXM Euro Ovals for important info.

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

Our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>, 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.

26. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

27. Restaurant of The Week

This feature return in a couple of weeks. 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, <u>www.iziristoranteitaliano.com</u> (featured 4/6/15) Canoa, <u>www.canoasxm.com</u> (featured 3/23/15) *SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News*

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, <u>www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (featured 7/13/15) Domino's Pizza https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338 (featured 8/10/15) Spiga, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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, <u>www.pineapplepete.com</u> (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, <u>www.vesnataverna.com</u> (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)

28. Tech Talk:

This column returns shortly. Index of all Tech Talk stories published to date (alphabetical):

Backing Up #1010 Defragmentation #1006 Malware: Stopping Malware in its Tracks #1011 Slow Systems - How To Fix Them #1012 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Advertising, Sales Promotion, Marketing Collateral, PR, Publicity, and Complete Website Strategy, Copy, & Design (Traditional or WordPress). Plus, JMB Website Supporters Get Hefty Discounts.

It's what else we do.

See <u>www.jmbcommunications.com</u> 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://everythingsxm.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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml</u> 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u> .

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

Please see our site, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site,

<u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi</u> You **CAN** <u>NOT</u> 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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi</u>, 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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