

Double Issue -- #1015 --- Monday, 10/12/15 and Monday, 10/19/15 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

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

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Part of www.everythingsxm.com

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Important Note:

You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have nearly 250,000 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 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://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?>

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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:

- Just When You Thought It Was Impossible, Alegria Situation Gets Much Worse***
- Heads Up, Caravanserai Timeshare Owners: You Can Still Join Litigation Against Alegria***
- Alegria Attempts to Evict Marty's Dream Bar, Then Shuts Off Their Water***
- Best Place on The Web To Rent or Buy a Timeshare (There Are Great Places)***
- Best Place on the Web To Rent Out or Sell a Timeshare You Own***
- Platinum JMB Members About To Receive a Big New Timeshare-Related Benefit***
- Medical Evacuation Questions & Answers Updated 10/18/15***
- How to Enter Our Eight-Vacation Giveaway***
- Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page***

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/27/2016 3/5/2016 Week 9 Ocean Club Unit 205 (2nd Floor) sleeps 4, with 1 queen size bed and queen-size sleep sofa. Full kitchen, balcony overlooking Caribbean. Washer/Dryer in hallway. Cupecoy Beach access from the resort, pool, parking, and bar with restaurant on premises. For more info visit <https://oceanclub210.shutterstock.com/oceanclub205> Accepting inquiries for week 7 and week 8 for a studio unit. \$775, renter also responsible for \$125 user/energy fee Debbie (301) 473-5978 deb7624bie@comcast.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 susan@jmbcommunications.com .

SALE 2/14/2016 2/21/2016 Week 7 Simpson Bay Resort Beaumontia Bldg Spacious & Luxurious 1 bdrm, sleep 6, 4th floor with spectacular Simpson Bay view, full kitchen, full bath, king bed and 2 hideaway beds, 2 tvs, a/c, living/dining room, balcony. Walkable to restaurants, shops, beach, and activities. Also have weeks 5 and 6 (Studio sleep 4 in same unit) \$8,000 Debb 774-408-7525 debbking53@comcast.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

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

This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format (New):

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing list of 210+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

http://www.everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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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://everythingxsm.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. Cape Verde Hurricane Season Ending

The Cape Verde hurricane season -- named for the largest storms that typically hit the Caribbean islands -- is over. It ended in late September. The full Atlantic season doesn't end until November 30, though the season peak was more than a month ago. We'll watch things for you.

2. Fewer Visiting Cruise Ships, Higher Prices May Be a Good Thing for Philipsburg

Cruise lines said over the last year that the Caribbean was overserved with ships and that some would be repositioned elsewhere during the 2015-2016 cruise season. Perhaps as a result, the cost of Caribbean cruising will rise slightly. Whether it will be enough to attract cruisers of a higher demographic isn't certain, but to us that seems likely. If it happens, it's good news to Philipsburg businesses, particularly jewelry stores. Low season, which is now, is deadly slow. A high season with fewer window shoppers and more buyers will be welcome.

3. In Midst of Merger, Some AA Customers Criticizing AA; The Plight of AA 2219

Mergers are highly complex, high-stress events. Airline mergers may well be the worst, involving lots of planes, schedules, personnel, frequent flyer programs, policies, computer systems, and more.

AA 2219 from SXM to Miami was scheduled to depart at about 10 a.m. roughly a week ago, but it was "delayed" by multiple issues -- then cancelled. Passengers felt ignored and fumed about receiving \$12 for food.

If you fly AA, don't be surprised if there are computer glitches coming; with something this complex, they are nearly inevitable. In mergers, it's a routine problem.

4. Caribbean Airfare Sales Coming? Here's The Story

Airlines are raking in money hand over fist, thanks to capacity reductions and to fees for everything but toilets.

They've also been unwilling to offer Caribbean sales -- but that may be changing.

We're getting the impression that fares may soften a bit this fall for flights next spring and possibly even for flights this coming winter. Slowly, capacity to SXM seems to be increasing from the US. Witness, for example, new nonstops on Delta from Minneapolis. If you have Kayak or other fare monitoring services pay close attention; we do have a feeling you may be pleasantly surprised soon.

5. 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.

If you're not a member of JMB Website Supporters, our low fare grid -- *plus* a great way to get low fares -- are two of about 240 SXM discounts and benefits you get from membership. See story 6 about fares and see the lead article in Section 2 about what *you* can get out of a JMB membership.

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 their members 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 for years.

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

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. 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? See the lead story in the next section.

7. 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 www.flytravelgo.com site help support *SXM Weekly News* and our SXM island discount program, JMB Website Supporters.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

It's Time You Joined Us, and Got The Dollar Benefits of JMB Membership.

What You Get:

- **A growing list of 240 discounts** for restaurants, shopping, hotels, car rentals, activities, jewelry, art, and tons more
- **Benefits** including free ads to rent out timeshare or other condos you own in SXM and worldwide
- **Low Fare Guidelines** to help you know what fares are reasonable
- **Big Discounts** on SkyMed, the world's premier provider of medical evacuation services for Americans, Canadians, and ex-pats virtually anywhere you travel, including Cuba (see stories 25 & 26).

Here are JMB prices and details:

New memberships:

\$59 for one year but 3 years for \$95 or five years for just \$125

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

Renewal memberships:

One year \$39; Seven years just \$119

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

Membership Reinstatements:

One year \$39; Seven years, \$125

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Lead Story: Alegria Debacle Getting Much Uglier, In a Hurry; Court Acts, But Alegria Doubles Down on Timeshare Owners

Let's first summarize what happened before last week.

1. Manek's Caravanserai Resort went bankrupt but mortgage Scotia Bank kept it operational while trying to sell.
2. Credit card processing magnate Ray Sidhom bought Caravanserai at auction a year ago and quickly emailed timeshare owners saying that their timeshare contracts were null and void. Many timeshare owners said they received no notice. Included was a paper to be signed which, when sent with money, allowed timeshare units to use "their" units for an uncertain period. No "ownership" so no ability to sell or trade.
3. Timeshare owners were outraged and besieged local newspapers and government officials with pleas for help. The St. Maarten Timeshare Association offered alternative accommodations, but most were not during high season and there was no relief from timeshare owners' lost investments -- some 2500+ timeshare owners reportedly lost millions.
4. Some Caravanserai timeshare owners formed an association, TOCA, and hired attorneys to fight Sidhom/Alegria. The attorneys sued, and the court ruled that Alegria owed the litigants the value of their units and more.

Now, the latest...

1. Last week the court put a stay on damages assessed on Alegria. The court did not nullify the prior ruling, it simply put a hold on payment of damages. Details:

<https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/52807-joint-court-suspends-penalties-for-alegria-in-timeshare-case>

2. Now the major news. Alegria (see #2 above) had previously allowed timeshare owners to stay in their units if they prepaid a fee that it has now collected from various individuals, including TOCA members, for dates both during the holidays and during high season.

Some TOCA members now say they've received letters from Alegria allegedly stating a) they are no longer welcomed at the resort; b) their resort reservations are cancelled; and c) that their payment will be refunded. Owners contacting us were beside themselves about this. "This is punitive toward TOCA members, punishing us for fighting for what we own," one said to us in words we've paraphrased so they're printable. Owners have bought expensive holiday airfare and are now without a place to stay just weeks before the holidays. It is unlikely Alegria will reverse this decision.... We do not know the total number of people affected.

Want to join TOCA and fight Alegria? Email tocagroup@gmail.com

8. Alegria Attempts to Evict Marty's Dream Bar, Then Shuts Off Their Water

They've taken Marty's to court twice to throw them off the property. The court found no legal basis to Alegria's complaints so Alegria lost twice.

Despite the court rulings, Alegria has issued an eviction order to Marty's, which also appears to observers to be contrary to the court's ruling. Now Marty alleges that Alegria has cut off his water, though Alegria blames a broken pipe which Alegria hasn't fixed.

Reportedly, there are other plumbing issues at Alegria. We'll keep you posted.

9. Best Place on The Web To Rent or Buy a Timeshare

Our Timeshare Rental pages on www.everythingsxm.com contain ads exclusively from our paid members, not strangers. We do many things to protect our members and their buyers from scams, as you'll read on our site. To rent or buy with confidence directly from condo owners, use our site.

10. Best Place on the Web To Rent Out or Sell a Timeshare You Own

When you join JMB Website Supporters, you get more than 240 discounts on both sides of the island and a number of benefits including the ability to advertise timeshares you own not only in St. Maarten, but also in the rest of the world, on our site without ad fees or commissions. Our timeshare rental and sale pages are widely read by a responsive, buying audience.

You can see our pages here: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

For info on JMB Website Supporters, see the beginning of this Section.

11. Platinum JMB Members About To Receive a Big New Timeshare-Related Benefit

In the next few days, we'll be notifying our Platinum Status JMB Website Supporters members of an upgrade to the special services they receive thanks to their platinum status.

Starting later this week, platinum status members will be able to submit their timeshare ads on a new input page for platinum status members only. Turnaround: about one business day from submission to publication online.

Platinum status membership is automatic for everyone whose membership expires more than nine years into the future. As long as their memberships expiration stays nine years plus, they remain platinum. Benefits for platinum status members are described on our members only secret website.

If you're still not a JMB member, it's time you joined. See the beginning of this Section for more info.

12. Coming in November, a Preview of New SXM Hotels

Many more are coming to the Dutch Side.. and at least one on the French Side will be getting a new moniker. Watch for details here next month.

13. Why You Should Take TripAdvisor Recommendations With a Grain of Salt

TripAdvisor does a great job of aggregating reviews of restaurants, hotels, and other businesses. Although it does everything it can to prevent bogus reviews, critics charge that adverse reviews from competitors slip through.

There are many outstanding resorts and restaurants in St. Maarten and in St. Martin that deserve all the high praise they receive. But if you see an unusually positive or an unusually negative review alongside many others on TripAdvisor, take it with a grain of salt. No place is perfect, but by the same token some good places can occasionally have a bad night. It happens....

14. About Our Accommodations Recommendations

For years, our accommodations recommendations on www.everythingstmaarten.com have regarded villas and some hotels much more than timeshares, which are where the majority of people stay when visiting SXM.

Soon, we'll change that, by adding our own reviews of most SXM timeshares. Once we post that new section, we'll publish a link to it in *SXM Weekly News*.

15. About Online Rental Bargains That Look Too Good To Be True

Don't be surprised if, on our site at times, you find timeshares for sale for less than \$1000. Some timeshare owners want to walk away from their investment since it no longer fits their lifestyle. Although the timeshare resale market has been improving recently, it's not fast enough for some sellers -- hence the low prices.

Be very careful when perusing *other* online sites for timeshare rentals or sales. If you see pictures there advertising something that seems too good to be true, think twice. Scammers are out there renting places they don't own.

Again, *ads on our pages are exclusively from our paid members* — not strangers. Read the scam warnings on our timeshare rental page at www.everythingsxm.com.

16. Review of SXM Timeshare Resorts of the Week

This feature returns soon.

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

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

To see our top choices for villas, go here: http://everythingshm.com/sxm/where_to_stay/index.shtml

If you'd like to buy a villa, go here:

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

SECTION 3: Island

18. Crime Update

For whatever reason, crime seems to spike every fall. This year, casinos, jewelry stores (including Splash at Simpson Bay Resort, also hit months ago), and small grocery stores have been prime targets.

Tourists aren't targeted, but as always we suggest you be conscious of your surroundings and don't do anything in St. Maarten that you wouldn't do at home — it's paradise, not utopia.

More advice: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/sxm_news/crime-in-st-maarten-st-martin.shtml

19. Elections Coming to Dutch Side in November

As we reported here a couple of weeks ago, the Dutch side government fell again not long ago. New elections have been called and they will take place sometime in November. Although this doesn't directly impact tourists, we'll keep you posted.

20. Remaining St. Maarten & St. Martin 2015 Holidays

St. Maarten/St Martin Day --- Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Kingdom Day --- Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Christmas Day --- Friday, December 25, 2015

Boxing Day --- Saturday, December 26, 2015

21. Best Places for Great Lunches

Many top SXM restaurants are closed at lunch, but many others are open and doing a brisk business. Here are a few of our favorites:

a) Papagayo at Orient beach offers a huge selection from a new menu, just updated. Euro/dollar are near parity, so pricing is reasonable. Come as you are; it's clothing optional.

b) Mr. Busby's Beach Bar on Dawn beach has a huge menu as well, including lots of sandwiches, seafood, and great salads. The location is beautiful as well, seaside on the windward side of SXM with St. Barts in the distance. Busby's is also open for breakfast and at dinner, transforms to Daniel's by the Sea.

c) Vesna Taverna, Simpson Bay, offers delicious lunches including sandwiches, salads, smoothies, and Greek specialties. Delightful atmosphere. Great spot for dinner, too.

d) The Lolos in Grand Case offer a variety of quick, economical lunches in the center of town not far from free parking. On Grand Case beach.

22. Best Places for Special Occasions

Before we dive into our selection of locations, we suggest you decide what kind of occasion this is.

St. Maarten has an unrivaled selection of fine quality, reasonably priced jewelry at a number of stores. We've recommended many in the past, including Caribbean Gems, Zhaveri Jewelers, Oro Diamante, DK Gems, Ballerina, and others. In fact, most of these give discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members – some of them hefty gift cards requiring no minimum purchase.

Special occasion restaurants:

Without a doubt, Le Pressoir in Grand Case is the best French Restaurant on the island. Publishers of bucket lists have placed it in list of "100 things to do before you die." It is flat out phenomenal; incredible food, unrivaled atmosphere, and a level of service that few others match. Make reservations and go early in your trip since unquestionably you will want to return.

For Italian in Grand Case, it's Spiga. When recommending a French Restaurant, they recommend Le Pressoir and Le Pressoir recommends Spiga. Creative, innovative, multi-faceted, and seasoned, Spiga delivers way above your expectations on everything that matters -- quality, flavors, service, ambiance, the works. It's wonderful.

Daniel's by the Sea on Dawn Beach offers an unrivaled seaside ambiance, a huge authentic Italian menu, fresh seafood including their renowned live lobster pool, juicy hand-picked prime steaks, an extraordinary array of salads (some of them almost meals unto themselves), homemade fettuccine, fabulous desserts, and a wine list picked by wine connoisseur Daniel Jurczenko. Dine under the palms in their gazebos on the beach. Incomparably romantic.

Canoa Restaurant, also in Dawn Beach, blends continental + Caribbean in ways that will make your taste buds fall in love... unique poultry, steaks, and seafood complemented by amazing salads and truly decadent desserts. Dine under the stars or inside at Great House Marina steps away from Oyster Bay Beach Resort and Coral Beach Club. Exquisite, flawless dining every night.

IZI Ristorante Italiano serves great Italian food in an upbeat, fun ambiance. Tell them in advance about your special occasion and watch what happens. Davide Foini is obsessed with serving the best of everything and it shows by his consistently high consumer ratings and his staff, which hustles US-style. You will not be disappointed.

Looking for excellent French or Greek food in a casual ambiance? Then try Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay, near the Palapa Marina north of the drawbridge. Fine food, generous portions, attentive service, and Vesna -- one of the most vivacious restaurant owners you'll ever find. Save room for dessert - Vesna makes them herself and they are *awesome*.

23. Best Places for Your First Clothing-Optional Beach Experience

There are two major clothing-optional beaches in SXM. To see our detailed info on all Dutch Side and French Side Beaches, visit www.everythingsxm.com and click "Beaches". Everyone who goes to a nude beach did it for a first time at some point. For SXM visitors, that first time has often been at either Cupecoy Beach on the Dutch Side or Orient Beach (at Club Orient) on the French Side. Check our descriptions online.

During high season, you may see crowds of upwards of 150 people at Cupecoy. Weekdays from the end of the first week in January to mid February, the "Lemon Drop Gang" is here (sometimes including Jeff); they are a mixture of old and new visitors many of whom have been coming to the same place at the same time for 20 years or more. Stick around for the "Circle of Friendship" -- it begins after 4:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome. Newbies are introduced (first name and where you're from).

Orient Beach, the largest and most popular on the island, is loaded with beach bars, restaurants, shops, and watersports facilities offering parasailing and other watersports. **Club Orient**, the world-renowned naturist resort at the southern end of the beach, is a sun worshippers' Mecca. Clothing-optional bathing is permitted **ONLY** at Club Orient. Relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

We frequently post pictures of progress on the reconstruction of the bars/restaurants between Pedro's & KonTiki on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

24. Special Gifts for Special People / Special Occasions

See the first two paragraphs of story 22 -- it has all you need, with links to the providers.

25. Questions & Answers About Medical Evacuation (Updated 10/18/15)

Here are updated questions and answers 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 food allergy, 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 declined, saying I didn't have time. 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 sign-ups. 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 in another waiting ambulance to the hospital where a medical team familiar with the situation was waiting and had a bed reserved 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 competitors* would take you. Big difference. Some others also raise prices after you reach a certain age. Or they cancel you on a particular birthday, or cancel your membership when you get sick. *SkyMed does none of that.* 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. What other evacuation-related services do you offer besides the evacuation itself?

There are 18 other services, some of which you've never even thought about but all of which are important. You'll find them by tonight (Monday night 10/19) on our downloadable **SkyMed Benefits PDF**, which will be posted on our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#) page.

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 or age, if you buy an annual or multiyear membership and keep it 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 if 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 with a rep, 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. Even as an ex-pat living in SXM, you can still be transported back to your city of choice in the USA.

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 pre-existing 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 or about \$9/day for singles. 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. Annual plans cost roughly \$1.30/day for your entire family (parents and minor kids); plans for singles are less. And Annual plans are renewable without medical requalification, assuming they haven't lapsed.

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

A. Both Americans and Canadians are eligible to join SkyMed.

Q. Is there a best time to buy?

A. Yes -- exactly like fire insurance, buy it before you need it! Now is a particularly good time because JMB is offering special benefits and discounts; see next story. Those incentives won't be around forever.

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 Home*TM; 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.

26. 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 done 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 there, and the sophisticated medical care available at leading US hospitals is not present 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. 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 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; jet fuel is a big part of the cost of a medical evacuation. 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.

For a five-year SkyMed Ultimate, non JMB members pay \$3495 in advance; JMB members pay only \$2495 through us — and remember, because of the bonus we mentioned above, when you sign up we will also give you a five-year JMB membership *enabling you to save that \$1000 on a five year Ultimate membership. That discount is not available 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/jmbxsm but these JMB discounts are not available online. JMB members only, see www.skymed.com/jmbspecial . You can also contact Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed.

When you sign up for the bonus SkyMed memberships 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.

27. Why We're Giving Away Eight SXM Vacations, & How to Enter

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.

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.

28. 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.

This offer will expire for the winter on Friday, October 23, 2015.

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. *All requests must be postmarked by October 23, 2015 to be accepted.*

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.

29. 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.

30. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

31. Restaurant of The Week

This feature return in a couple of weeks.

32. Tech Talk:

This column returns shortly.

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 www.jmbcommunications.com for more.

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

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13) Returns Next Issue

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

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

SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 10/18/15

See www.everythingsxm.com.

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsxm.com/secret , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *2014 St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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