

#1017 --- Monday, 11/2/15 -- 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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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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

Important Note:

***You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have 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 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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Just enter your email address at the top, and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, just click the confirming link and you're in.

## TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday all year long (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You're receiving this because you subscribed or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

*In This Week's SXM Weekly News:*

- Much Needed Rain Arrives, Followed by Sunny Fall Weather**
- Next Business Day Timeshare Rental / Sale Ad Posting Now Available to JMB Members**
- SXM's "Best Timeshares" Now Listed On Our Everythingxsm.com Website**
- Beat The Price Increase: Join, Renew, or Reinstate Your JMB Membership Now**
- Great News About Cugini: It Reopens in Two Weeks**
- First New Orient Beach Restaurant Buildings Appear to be Nearing Completion**
- Seaweed Update**
- Reminder: No JMB Membership Card, No Discounts or Benefits in SXM**
- Questions & Answers about Medical Evacuation - Updated 10/26/15**
- Why We're Giving Away Eight SXM Vacations, & How To Enter**
- Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page**

**18** 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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 237+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

### ***SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:***

RENTAL 1/2/2016 1/9/2016 Week 01 Simpson bay resort and marina Beach front, second floor unit (F20) with fabulous views and sunsets. Sleeps 6, 2 BR unit, king size beds. Sofa bed sleeps 2 in lounge. Fully equipped kitchen, 2 Bth and 2 balconies. Amazing resort facilities- pools, tennis, spa, gym, playground, restaurants, casino, deli and watersports all available 2150 Teresa 011 44 1202 707586 (UK) [Tess.thurston@gmail.com](mailto:Tess.thurston@gmail.com)

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? Reduced to \$1049 for rent or \$3749 to buy. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com)

### ***SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:***

SALE 2/7/2016 2/14/2016 Week 6 Simpson Bay Resort Bouganvillea Bldg, stylish Studio Sleep 4, 1st Flr, poolside, easy access to large pool, refurbished last year, full kitchen, full bath, king bed and hideaway bed, tv, a/c sitting area, patio. Walkable to restaurants, shops, beach, and activities. Also have week 5 (same unit) and week 7 (1 bedroom) for sale. \$6,000 Debb 774-408-7525 [debbking53@comcast.net](mailto:debbking53@comcast.net)

SALE: January 16 to January 23, 2016 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Club on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean sea. Includes a Jacuzzi® whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker, marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, mini-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar -- all on the ocean. Close to Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis World), many great restaurants including Dino Jagtiani's Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie Rouge on the French Side, and did I say incredible restaurants? Reduced to \$3749 (negotiable) to buy or \$1049 to rent. Photos available. Phone (508) 747-8281 and ask for Jeff or email [susan@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susan@jmbcommunications.com) .

### ***Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:***

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

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

## This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_205834172765083](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083)

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

**Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):**

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

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

[www.linkedin.com](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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2. A Great Source of Low Airfares & More Available Free to JMB Members
3. Available to All: FlyTravelGo Is The Easiest-to-Use Travel Reservations Website

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4. Next Business Day Timeshare Rental / Sale Ad Posting Now Available to JMB Members
5. SXM's "Best Timeshares" Now Really Are Listed On Our Everythingxsm.com Website

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

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**Section Four:** For Members Only (Revised 12/31/14)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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](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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
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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. Much Needed Rain Arrives, Followed by Sunny Fall Weather

St. Maarten has been parched recently by a Caribbean-wide drought which has turned the landscape brown across much of the island.

This was the second week in a row that saw much-needed rain arrive on SXM, and it was widely welcomed by locals. Tourists were somewhat less enthusiastic, but afterwards the sun came out and gave everyone warm tropical weather to enjoy.

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#### 2. 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 Section 3: *prices increase this month, so this is the time to join.*

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### 3. 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](http://www.flytravelgo.com) site help support *SXM Weekly News* and our SXM island discount program, JMB Website Supporters.

## **SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**

### 4. Next Business Day Timeshare Rental / Sale Ad Posting Now Available to JMB Members

*Important News for JMB Members Renting Out or Selling SXM Timeshare Condos They Own*

Executive Summary of Key JMB Timeshare Sale & Rental Ad Program Enhancements

- Ads can be posted the first business day after submission
- Your ads can appear in front of all other ads for the same date
- Your ads can include up to four photos of the property you're trying to sell or rent out
- Your ads can be up to 175 words long versus the traditional 125-word size limit

Last Friday we launched major enhancements to the Timeshare Rental and Sale Benefit we offer to our Platinum JMB Website Supporters members, and we wanted everyone to know what's up. The simplest way to explain this is in Q & A form. Here goes; the changes are substantial:

#### **Q. What exactly is a Platinum JMB Member?**

A Platinum member is any JMB Website Supporters member whose membership expires at least nine years into the future at the time their ad is placed. Platinum membership expires automatically whenever your membership expires less than nine full years into the future. [Check your JMB Website Supporters Membership Card to verify your membership expiration date, which will tell you whether you're currently Platinum Status.] All renewals will have been processed by tomorrow, Tuesday, November 3, which means you'll receive your current JMB Membership Card by that time if you've renewed recently. Platinum-format ads posted when you are a Platinum-status member are not altered if your Platinum membership later falls below nine years and reverts to traditional status, but you cannot place new Platinum ads unless you remain Platinum-status.

#### **Q. How / where do I submit an ad?**

Traditional members submit ads through the "Submit an Ad" link on all pages of our members-only Secret Website. Log in using the orange login box below the masthead on everythingxsm.com. Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you don't recall your password, click the Forgot / Change password link in the login box.

Platinum members -- and only Platinum members -- must go to the special web address already emailed to them to submit their Platinum ads. Non-Platinum members submitting ads to the Platinum ad submission page will find their ads ignored and deleted by our system. Platinum ads submitted any other way can not get Platinum treatment.

#### **Q. How long can my ad be?**

Traditional members can submit ads up to 125 words in length, total, a limit that's strictly enforced.

Platinum members can now submit ads up to 175 words long, just increased from 150.

**Q. When will my ad be posted?**

Traditional members' ads, in season, will be posted roughly once a week, sometimes less often. Out of season, they will be posted roughly every two weeks. Traditional members, please don't ask when your ad will be posted; the above is about as specific as we can get.

Platinum member ads submitted through the Platinum input form noted above will almost invariably be posted the next business day, first thing in the morning. Ads must be submitted through the special online ad submission location noted above. Ads submitted through the traditional "Submit an Ad" link will not get Platinum Member priority or placement.

**Q. May I include pictures?**

Traditional members: No.

Platinum members: Yes, up to four pictures. Email them to the address previously supplied to all Platinum members with the subject "Platinum Ad pictures" AFTER you have sent us your ad through the Platinum ad submission page. Pictures sent by non-Platinum members will be ignored.

**Q. May I post hyperlinks in my ad?**

Currently, both traditional and Platinum-status members may do this, but that may change in the future. Platinum members will *always* have free hyperlinks (links to external sites).

**Q. May I have the name of my resort in boldface so it stands out?**

Traditional members: no.

Platinum members: Yes, starting today, all Platinum-status ads submitted will have the name of your resort boldfaced.

**Q. Where exactly will my ad be placed?**

Ads from traditional members are posted chronologically in order of receipt, which means that ads received first usually appear first for that rental date. Ads received later appear following those received earlier.

Regardless of when they are received, ads from Platinum Members *are always posted first for their date*, ahead of all ads from traditional members, a huge marketing advantage. Should there be ads from several Platinum Members, they will appear chronologically in order of receipt -- but *all* Platinum ads will always appear ahead of all ads from traditional members.

**Q. What do I do when I rent my unit?**

Use the "cancel ad" feature on [everything.sxm.com](http://everything.sxm.com) and your ad will be updated (marked "rented") during our next regular update. Applies to all ads.

Q. How long will my ad be posted?

Rental ads stay up until you notify us the unit has been rented (through the "cancel ad" feature) or until the rental date is a couple of days away, whichever happens first.

Sale ads are updated when you tell us your unit is sold through the "cancel ad" feature on the site. If it hasn't sold and the dates in your ad are close to a year old, we will delete the ad and send you an email telling you we've deleted it. When we do that, the subject of the email notifying you will usually be "Ad Deleted, Old Dates."

**Q. May I email new ads, cancellations, corrections, or price updates to you?**

No, please use the input forms on the secret site; that ensures the info gets to the right people without any delay. Price updates should use the new "price update" feature you'll find on the Secret Site. *Send changes to us* by submitting a replacement ad through the appropriate online form; except for price, we don't update existing ads, for legal reasons. Traditional members should use the "Submit Ad" feature; Platinum members should use the Platinum ad submission link sent to them by email last week.

**Q. Do you offer highlighting to emphasize my ad over others?**

Traditional members: Yes, for an additional fee of \$20 per ad. The highlight includes a "spotlight" icon and your ad is set off from other ads through horizontal borders. More info on this is on our timeshare rental page at [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com). The most expeditious way to pay this fee is through PayPal.

Platinum members: Yes --- at no cost. In addition to what traditional ads get, your ad will also include a custom-created headline; it can be up to 175 words long (traditional ads are 125); and your Platinum ad can have up to four pictures.

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**How To Upgrade to Platinum-Status JMB Membership**

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You can gain all the timeshare selling / renting advantages of Platinum-Status membership by buying a Platinum Membership or by upgrading your current membership to Platinum in the Membership Renewal Center on the Secret Website.

Current members: Check your Membership Card for your current membership expiration date. Then go to [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com) and log in. Membership renewal duration choices will enable you to renew for the number of years you need to qualify for Platinum-Status membership, which becomes effective when your membership expires more than nine years into the future and stays there.

Nonmembers: Buy the longest-term new membership we offer through PayPal and then send us an additional \$20 per year so your membership *exceeds* nine years (10 years minimum for new Platinum memberships). To join, go to [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com) and click the page curl at the top of the home page.

Membership prices increase this month -- so if you're contemplating Platinum memberships, the wise choice is to join or upgrade now at our low current pricing.

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## 5. SXM's "Best Timeshares" Now Really Are Listed On Our Everythingxsm.com Website

Go to the home page of our site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com), now and you'll find a link to our newest page with lots of recommendations of SXM timeshares. This had been scheduled for last week but was delayed; we apologize for any inconvenience.

This is a direct link:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/recommended-st-maarten-timeshare-resorts.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/recommended-st-maarten-timeshare-resorts.shtml)

### **SECTION 3: Island**

## **6. Beat The November Price Increase: Join, Renew, or Reinstate Your JMB Membership Now**

Prices on all longer-term JMB new memberships, renewals, and reinstatements will increase **next week** -- join us today or renew / reinstate your membership to get our low current pricing.

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 worth buying -- and which are just too high
- 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 12 & 13).

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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal memberships:

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

[www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

Membership Reinstatements:

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

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

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## 7. About The Next Issue of SXM Weekly News

Normally our next regular issue is due out on November 9. We just wanted you to know that because of business travel it will likely come later, perhaps that Wednesday -- or earlier, like next Friday or Saturday. It's *not* likely to be issued on Monday 11/9.

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## 8. Great News About Cugini: It Reopens in Two Weeks

Cugini co-owner and driving force Sam Runza was diagnosed last March with cancer and rushed to Toronto, his home, for treatment. After heavy treatment, he was declared cancer-free a few weeks ago, as we reported.

Also several weeks ago he and his partner/cousin Tony Piscione elected to close the restaurant. But thanks to Sam's startlingly miraculous recovery, they've changed their minds and decided to reopen this new but already near-legendary restaurant in Simpson Bay near the Carousel in the middle of this month. Tony will be there to start and Sam will be rejoining him just as soon as his strength allows.

We're delighted by the news and wish Sam continued excellent health and our own *Mazel Tov* - it's not Italian but he knows exactly what it means,

We'll all see you again soon, Sam.

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## 9. First New Orient Beach Restaurant Buildings Appear to be Nearing Completion

If you're following our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) over on Facebook, you've already seen the latest pictures of the new construction on Orient Beach between Pedro's (which is getting its own facelift) and Kon Tiki. There, all prior structures were demolished and are being replaced by all new facilities in a process that began last June.

Initial construction began next to Pedro's and those buildings are now up and being decorated and completed inside. Other buildings are progressing well. We'll soon have details on what business will be returning, what won't, and when they'll open. See our Facebook Site for more and for lots of SXM pictures and other items of interest.

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## 10. Seaweed Update

Orient Beach is clear and we've heard no complaints recently from anyone on the island -- all of which is very good

news. We'll give you a first-hand report from the island next week and we plan to include pictures as well on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

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## 11. Reminder: No JMB Membership Card, No Discounts or Benefits in SXM

JMB members who don't have their JMB Website Supporters membership card will not be able to get any discounts in St. Maarten or St. Martin. We've told this to our partners across the island and we're also nearly finished modifying all of our discount vouchers to reflect the fact that they must be used with a valid JMB Website Supporters membership card. Bottom line, bring your card: you are not entitled to JMB discounts without it.

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

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](http://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 like SkyMed. If you're in SXM, that means *SkyMed competitors* would likely take you to Puerto Rico. 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 on our downloadable SkyMed Benefits PDF, now 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*<sup>TM</sup>; What else matters?

For more, see [skymed.com/jmbspecial](http://skymed.com/jmbspecial) or email Jeff Berger directly at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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.

## 13. 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/jmbsxm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbsxm) but these JMB discounts are not available online. JMB members only, see [www.skymed.com/jmbspecial](http://www.skymed.com/jmbspecial) . You can also contact Jeff at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed.

When you sign up for the bonus SkyMed memberships shown above, email [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com) and tell us. We'll verify the sign-up and that it is through us, then process your bonus. But do it soon... this won't last forever.

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

We expect to surpass 4.5-million visits to [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](#)

We'll be adding dinners for two and more.

Enter here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting\\_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml)

Full rules are on the page.

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## 15. 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.

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## 16. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look right here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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## 17. Restaurant of The Week

This feature returns this month (November).

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## 18. Tech Talk:

This column returns this month (November).

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**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.*

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See [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com) for more.

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### 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](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 [http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsxm.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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

### CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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

### Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

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

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