

#1019 --- Monday, 11/16/15 -- 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

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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

Important Note:

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

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- New Orient Bars / Restaurants To Open In December, Collectivite Says (Roughly Four Weeks Late)**
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- Last Two Weeks of Hurricane Season...**
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- High Quality Cigar Manufacturing Now Underway in SXM**

28 news stories this week

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Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rental 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? Now reduced to \$1049 for rent or \$3749 to buy. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email jeff@jmbcommunications.com

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE 12/12/2015 12/19/2015 Week 50 Flamingo Beach Resort Unit 7320. One bedroom + great room w/new sleeper couch, sleeps 4 comfortably. Full kitchen, granite, updated appliances, utensils, two flat screen TVs. New AC units. Unit faces beachfront, 3rd fl. w/balcony, beautiful ocean, sunset views, also pool. Check link www.diamondresorts.com for 360 deg. views and amenities. Walk to restaurants, shops, casino, complimentary fitness center at sister resort nearby. \$1,600 +transfer fees (nominal)+ prepaid 2015 maintenance Irv - (561) 738-5672, or (cell) (561) 445-5671 hidamast@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 .

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

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

This Week's Stories

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



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

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

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
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- 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://everythingxm.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. Two More Weeks and the '15 Hurricane Season is Gonzo....

Forecasters say new tropical development is possible before month's end in the Bahamas -- but they're saying nothing affecting SXM.

It ain't over 'til it's over, of course, and nobody here will celebrate anything until we all make it through this hurricane season without any further events.

Should something currently unanticipated happen, we'll keep you posted on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Check it out for lots of SXM pictures and interesting info -- every day.

2. About That Air Show...

The SXM Air Show on Sunday, November 15, takes place over Great Bay and is visible from the Great Bay Promenade, popularly known as the Boardwalk. Lots of food, fun, and music, along with "air show" action every 15 minutes starting early Sunday afternoon. Most readers will receive this edition before Sunday, so if you're on the island check it out.

3. 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.*

4. 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

5. Reminder: Same Business Day Timeshare Rental / Sale Ad Posting for JMB Members

Last week we improved on an announcement we had made a couple of weeks ago. Bottom line, we'll usually be posting timeshare sale / rental ads received from Platinum-status JMB members by 6 pm EST *on that same day*, during the evening.

Platinum members are members whose memberships expire more than nine years into the future.

Article 4 of our 11/2 *SXM Weekly News* included detailed FAQ on the new program. You'll find the article online in our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#).

Platinum members only may submit Platinum ads at the special ad submission page supplied to them in recent emails. Traditional (non-Platinum) members must continue to submit ads through the "Submit an ad" link on every page of everythingxsm.com.

If you're a JMB member, see the Membership Card we emailed you to determine if you're a platinum member. To upgrade to Platinum membership, go to the Membership Renewal Center on the Secret Site and extend your membership so it expires *more than* nine years into the future. You remain Platinum as long as your membership expiration remains more than nine years into the future.

How To Upgrade to Platinum-Status JMB Membership

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 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 here](#).

Membership prices increase early in December (we've deferred the increase scheduled for last week), so if you're contemplating Platinum memberships, the wise choice is to join or upgrade now at our low current pricing.

6. Timeshares Continue To Rent Out Very Quickly; Where To Find Them

Rentals of St. Maarten timeshares for next winter continue to proceed at what looks to us like a record pace. If you want to rent a St. Maarten timeshare for next winter or beyond, do it now. We have hundreds from JMB members [right here](#).

SECTION 3: Island

7. 11/12 Price Increase Rescheduled to 12/1: Join, Renew, or Reinstate Your JMB Membership Now To Beat The Price Increase

Prices on all longer-term JMB new memberships, renewals, and reinstatements increase December 1 -- join us today or renew / reinstate your membership to get our low current pricing.

What You Get:

- A growing list of 242+ 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 17 & 18).

Here are our current 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>

8. From Drought to a Lush Island: How It Happened

The drought seemed to start breaking just a few weeks ago. It has turned the countryside from a crisp and a bit scary brown, with the distinct threat of brush fires, to the lush green normally seen this time of year. Right now the island is very lush with lots of blooming floral plants -- the kind our friend, world-renowned plein-air Caribbean impressionist Sir Roland Richardson has painted with such passion for decades. See more about his work at www.rolandrichardson.com.

9. Butterflies Are Back

Great Southern yellow butterflies are now abundant again in SXM, and their numbers are building -- helped by recent rains. They're attracted to the multitude of flowering plants currently also in abundance...making it a very pretty time to be on SXM with your camera.

More stories are below.

**Complete Website Strategy, Copy, & Design
(Traditional or WordPress), Marketing Collateral, PR,
Publicity, and lots more. Plus, JMB Website Supporters
members Get Hefty Discounts from JMB Communications.**

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JMB Communications: www.jmbcommunications.com

Way More Than SXM

10. Seaweed Report -- And Why It Doesn't Really Matter

A few weeks ago we wrote that Sargassum -- the seaweed from the Sargasso Sea that has been plaguing much of the Caribbean for the last few years -- had abated, leaving most beaches in great shape.

As our plane approached SXM Airport last week, we saw no patches of the stuff, a big difference from last year's landing.

Indeed, Orient Beach -- the most popular beach here -- looks great. So do many others -- some with help from morning raking, others with no help at all.

No snow here, no ice (except in drinks), and no skidding unless you drink a lot. So don't worry about a little seaweed. No one seems to really care as it comes and goes across the Caribbean and the Gulf.

11. French Side Moving Ahead With \$300-million Marigot Redevelopment Project

When the Euro surged against the dollar, it took over \$1.40 to equal one Euro. French Side business tanked as residents there fled to the Dutch Side to buy groceries and hardware, and a number of restaurants suffered because of high prices for dollar-carrying tourists.

Unemployment increased and crime increased along with it. Restaurants fled Marigot or closed, even as the Dutch Side prospered thanks to superior cruise ship facilities, more and better hotels, and SXM Airport becoming a regional powerhouse -- all while the French Side languished with the sole exception of Grand Case, which still boasts some of the best restaurants on the planet.

The USD\$3-million Orient Beach bar/restaurant reconstruction project finishes next month. It demolished aging though well-liked older bars and restaurants in favor of a larger, more attractive beach and all-new construction (see next articles).

Now, a USD\$300-million redevelopment project is moving into design. It's supposed to feature an expanded harbor with an upscale hotel including conference facilities; facilities for mid-size cruise ships; increased anchorage for megayachts; and shops.

The bad news: it's still years away from completion. We'll keep you posted.

12. New Orient Beach Bars / Restaurants: Who Will Be There?

Only about 16 or so businesses can relocate in the new bars/restaurants nearing completion on Orient beach. Preference will be given to prior tenants, but not all will return. We're hearing that the most well-known Orient Beach restaurant -- Andy & Cheryl's -- will be among those not returning. Andy had passed away a couple of years ago.

Reportedly about 80 businesses have made requests to occupy the new facilities. We'll be watching this and we'll publish details. See next story.

13. New Orient Bars / Restaurants Open Next Month, Four Weeks Late

When the French Side government announced that this project would begin in June with demolition of existing structures between Pedro's and Kon Tiki, it said the project would be completed in November.

Over a sign proclaiming the project, those concerned posted a "delayed four months" sticker, leading to the assumption that meant March -- the end of high season. That would have been disastrous for OB businesses.

But progress in the last several weeks has been swift -- and now the Collectivite says the new shops will formally open before Christmas.

We'll keep you posted here and on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

14. What Thanksgiving is Like in SXM: Yes on Turkey & All the Fixins

While waiting at JFK last week for our flight to SXM, we overheard a rather absurd observation about SXM and

Thanksgiving: "They don't celebrate it, it's nothing there."

While America's November Thanksgiving holiday is a huge deal in the USA, and is not celebrated in SXM, you would never know that from SXM's restaurants. Dozens of them offer full-scale Thanksgiving dinners starting around noon and running well into the night. It's one of the busiest tourist weeks of the year for SXM.

A couple of weeks ago we reserved a spot at Topper's in Simpson Bay thinking we'd be Topper's first holiday reservation. He already had three dozen. Topper knows his stuff and his dinners are outstanding. The desserts are great as well -- definitely worth saving space for.

Coming to SXM for Thanksgiving enables you to sacrifice nothing -- plenty of places for the dinners you love. And plenty of places to watch football afterwards.

15. High Quality Cigar Manufacturing Now Underway in SXM

If you love high-quality cigars -- made with care *by hand* from the finest fillers and wrappers -- you owe it to yourself to seek out SXM's own Das Cigars, widely sold across the island. On our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) we'll soon post a number of pictures... so take a look. Das Cigars also has a store in the community area at the Dr. A. C. Wathey Cruise and Cargo facilities where it makes cigars to order before your eyes.

You'll read much more about Das Cigars here in the coming weeks.

16. Huge Increase In What We're Giving Away Besides Eight SXM Vacations...

There has been a huge increase in what you can get in our eight vacation giveaway, which occurs next March and celebrates us surpassing 4.5 million visits to everythingSXM.com.

Here are our newest items:

Dinner for two at Mario's Bistro, Porto Cupecoy
Dinner for two at Beau Beaus (Oyster Bay Beach Resort)
Dinner for two at Infinity (OBBR)
Dinner for two at Sushiiitto
Dinner for two at Pineapple Pete
Dinner for two at Daniel's by the Sea
Dinner for two at Spiga
Dinner for two at Lal's Curry In a Hurry
Dinner for two at Toppers
Dinner for two at Toppers By The Sea
Dinner for two at Vesna Taverna
Dinner for two at Fusion Restaurant, Simpson Bay
Dinner for two at iZi Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay
Massage from Tricia Altenau, the island's most sought-after massage therapist

More prizes will be coming.

We will draw the vacation winners live on the air on Island 92 radio in mid-March. After we give away all eight vacations, we'll call the winners back randomly. The first person picked gets our selection of some of the prizes above; that will be our first-runner-up prize. The second person called at random will get our Grand Prize, which has our selection of dinners and other prizes.

As always, anyone who doesn't answer loses and will not be called back again.

Here are our vacation prizes:

-- [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](#)

Enter here:

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

Full rules are on the page.

17. Big Honors for Toppers Rhum at Beer & Wine Festival

Topper's Caribbean White Rhum won the Gold Medal in the coveted White Rum category at the Caribbean Rum and Beer Festival recently. Topper's Mocha Mama shined with the Gold Medal in the most entered Flavored Rum category and Topper's Spiced received a bronze in the prestigious Spiced category. Topper's bartender Latchman Chintaman won the Silver medal in the Cocktail Wars. Congrats to Toppers!

18. SXM Supermarket Shenanigans

SXM supermarkets are expensive, especially on the Dutch Side. Heavy port taxes are imposed to pay for things like the Lagoon Causeway. What's odd is that imports for the entire island usually go through the Dutch Side port...so, why is the French Side less expensive?

A two-liter bottle of Coke will routinely cost you \$3.59 versus 99 cents on sale at home. Milk will be at least double the US price. Produce is expensive and the quality varies store to store and day to day.

Watch prices closely especially on the Dutch Side. Prices are in guilders; 1.80 guilders equals \$1. If you're buying sale items, bring the ad. If you're buying based on "Special Promotion" in-store placards, remember the price: it might not ring up at the register. A four-gallon container of cheap ice cream was priced at \$6.77 at Le Grand Marche last week but it rang up at 20 guilders. Be on your guard.

Two notes.

First, the former Le Grand Marche in Cole Bay is rebranding to Carrefour, a French brand, for most of its house merchandise. The rebranding will be completed next month.

Second, try the French Side for grocery shopping, especially Simply and Super U in Marigot. They're clean, the Euro and dollar are treated at parity at Simply, and prices are very good.

19. Cugini Reopens Thursday

Tony plans to reopen the restaurant this coming Thursday. Sam Runza hopes to be back some time during January. Cugini is in Simpson Bay near Carousel. We're hoping much of the staff will be returning ... in any case the recipes are outstanding....

20. Iguana Farm Disappears -- Again

The Iguana Farm on the road to Dawn Beach was... well... odd.

It had a nice little store with iguana souvenirs like t-shirts (reasonably priced). The "farm" was about four acres and

it featured a little pond with iguanas. There were chickens, piglets, and some other animals on the property.

It was their second location. The first had been next door. After building it, they tore it down and moved it a short walking distance away. Something to do with the French-Dutch border, we heard.

The new place never did any business besides a few taxis each day, if that. The Farm had fewer iguanas than the place in Orleans (French Side) near old school buses beside a pond, or the small pond near the Westin Dawn Beach.

Last Tuesday after returning to SXM we explored the island to see what was new and found the new Iguana Farm had disappeared. Torn down, again. Neighbors claimed they demolished it and let the animals fend for themselves. They said they included a monkey, raccoons (yes there are raccoons in SXM, introduced), and of course iguanas who will have no problems doing what they do.

Rumor has it the owners are rebuilding on Bishop Hill Road, not far away. We will bring you the latest episode in this soap opera as it happens....

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

JMB members who don't have their valid 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.

22. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation

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 most travelers 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 us and suggested I become a rep. 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.

That's how it started. I have since signed up several thousand 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 airport, 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*™; 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. You can also call SkyMed directly (in Scottsdale AZ, Mountain standard time year round.) Their number is 1-800-475-9633; ask for Nan. If you're a JMB member, say so and have your membership card ready, All multiyear plans offer major discounts to JMB members.

23. 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 and Canadian 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. You can also call SkyMed directly (in Scottsdale AZ, Mountain standard time year round.) Their number is 1-800-475-9633; ask for Nan. If you're a JMB member, say so and have your membership card ready, All multiyear plans offer major discounts to JMB members. 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.

Include your phone number and he'll call you.

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.

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

See story 16, above... we don't want you to miss this.

25. 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 ... after we reach 5000 "likes" we'll pick a person at random to be among the "Final 60" people we call when we give away eight vacations early next year. We welcome you to join our Facebook Site.

26. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

27. Restaurant of The Week

Everyone has memories of very special restaurants they've visited. One of ours was The Stoned Crab in Freeport, Bahamas. It was on the water with a unique ambiance and great food.

The Stoned Crab is long gone now, but there's one St. Maarten restaurant which immediately rekindled those memories when we first visited it about 10 years ago. It's on the water -- under gazebos and a palm tree canopy. The dining ambiance and atmosphere are incomparable. The team is experienced; they use proven recipes and execute them flawlessly; and their attentiveness to the needs of visitors is excellent.

That restaurant is Daniel's by the Sea in Dawn Beach. From appetizer to dessert, expect real excellence. We flat out love it. Daniel's is also one of dozens of SXM restaurants offering discounts to JMB members. See the "secret site" for dining/restaurant discounts. If you're still not a member, do it; you'll save a small fortune on your next SXM vacation. Go here for more: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

See past Restaurant of the Week businesses below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details. We'll cover another restaurant here soon.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 4/6/15)

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/23/15)

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 6/15/15)

Cugini (featured 12/8/14; reopening late next week)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 5/11/15)

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachxsm.com (featured 11/16/15)

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 8/11/14)

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 2/23/15)

Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 1/26/15)

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)
Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>
Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/19/15)
Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 2/23/15)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 5/18/15)
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/2/15)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/4/15)
Coconut Grove (formerly SPN Cafe), <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html> (featured 8/18/14)
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there). (featured 4/27/2015)
FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 4/13/15)
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/10/14)
Topper's / Topper's By The Sea <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 6/29/15)
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)

28. Tech Talk: System Restore / Recovery

Recovery -- setting your system briefly back in time so it performs as it did before it started acting up -- is an old Windows feature that can be a lifesaver.

To use it, search for "system recovery" on your system. When your system is running fine, [Create a Restore Point](#) -- and do that periodically. When it isn't, Restore Your System using a recovery point you established, or one your system set up automatically (it does that, but not often enough). System Restore can easily save your neck....

Index of all past Tech Talk stories (alphabetical):

Backing Up #1010
Defragmentation #1006
Malware: Stopping Malware in its Tracks #1011
Slow Systems - How To Fix Them #1012
System Restore #1019
Uninterruptable Power Supplies #1007
Windows 10 #1005

Access these stories in the issue # noted above in our *SXM Weekly News* PDF Archives pages, here:

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

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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

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

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

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