

Happy Thanksgiving! -----#1020 --- Monday, 11/23/15 -- 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/xsmweeklynews.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:

- Sapphire Resort Would-Be Buyer Takes Resort's Developer To Court**
- Alegria Resort Turns on Dream Bar's Water, Then Loses in Court Again**
- Arriving Syrians With Fake Passports Stopped at Airport, Arrested, Thrown in SXM Jail**
- Somber Mood As French Side Mourns the Paris Attacks**
- No Threats Against SXM Detected, But Island Ups Security Precautions Nonetheless**
- Our Legendary Black Friday Membership Sale Begins This Morning at 7 a.m.: Why This Year Is An Especially Appropriate Time To Buy**
- Leisure Car Rental, New JMB Partner, Offers 15% Off Weekly Rentals to JMB Members; See Our Partners Online**
- Thanksgiving in SXM: Get Your Reservations in Now; Top Restaurants; Reflections on T-Day Past**
- Our Choices for SXM's Top Jewelry Stores: Think Holidays -- and Valentine's Day**
- French Side Plans for New Orient Beach Bars & Restaurants to Open in December**
- New SXM Photo Albums Being Added to Our Everything SXM Facebook Site**
- Road Through Mullet Bay Has Bright New Street Lights**
- Huge Increase In What We're Giving Away Besides Eight SXM Vacations...**

30 news 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://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: 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 \$949 for rent or \$3749 to buy. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email jeff@jmbcommunications.com

RENTAL 2/20/2016 2/27/2016 Week 8 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Villa 203 is right on Simpson Bay with break taking views, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and living room, 2 pull out beds in living room, 2 outside decks. Unit is close to beach and many restaurants, all walking distance away. Great time to be warm when USA is cold and snowy. \$2,100 Pam 757-868-001 pam_falls@msn.com

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 \$3749 (negotiable) to buy or \$949 to rent. Photos available. Phone (508) 747-8281 and ask for Jeff or email susan@jmbcommunications.com .

SALE 2/27/2016 3/5/2016 Week 9 Flamingo Beach Resort Oversized beachfront studio, Unit 7106. Step off the porch onto the beach. Great sunsets. King size bed and pull out couch. Full kitchen with all utensils and appliances, bathroom, Dining area, two flat screen TV's, Wi-Fi, DVD Player. Resort offers pool and numerous on-site amenities. Several top rated restaurants within the resort area. Short walk to supermarket, casino, watersports, and additional dining. \$3,500 Joel 843-838-0089 jdholden850@gmail.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

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

Section One: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather [Go To This Section](#)

1. Weather: Seasonably Showery
2. Hurricane Season Ends a Week From Today
3. A Great Source of Low Airfares & More Available Free to JMB Members
4. Available to All: FlyTravelGo Is The Easiest-to-Use Travel Reservations Website

Section Two: Accommodations (**Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**) [Go To This Section](#)

5. Sapphire Resort Would-Be Buyer Takes Resort's Developer To Court
6. Alegria Resort Turns on Dream Bar's Water, Then Loses in Court Again
7. Reminder About Same Business Day Timeshare Rental / Sale Ad Posting for JMB Members
8. Timeshares Continuing To Rent Out Very Quickly; Where To Find Them

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

Section Three: Island [Go To This Section](#)

9. Our Legendary Black Friday Membership Sale Begins This Morning at 7 a.m.: Why This Year Is An Especially Appropriate Time To Buy

10. Syrians With Fake Passports Stopped, Arrested, Thrown in SXM Jail
11. Somber Mood As French Side Mourns the Paris Attacks
12. No Threats Against SXM Detected, But Island Ups Security Precautions Nonetheless
13. Few Mosquitoes, No Chikungunya -- But Caution is a Good Idea
14. Leisure Car Rental, New JMB Partner, Offers 15% Off Weekly Rentals to JMB Members; See Our Partners Online
15. Thanksgiving in SXM: Get Your Reservations in Now; Top Restaurants; Reflections on T-Day Past
16. Looking Forward to the Heineken Regatta
17. Our Choices for SXM's Top Jewelry Stores: Think Holidays -- and Valentine's Day
18. Today's Look at (or Search for) Seaweed
19. French Side Plans for New Orient Beach Bars & Restaurants to Open in December
20. New SXM Photo Albums Being Added to Our Everything SXM Facebook Site
21. Road Through Mullet Bay Has Bright New Street Lights
22. Butterfly Update
23. Reminder: No JMB Membership Card, No Discounts or Benefits in SXM
24. Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
25. Our Double SkyMed Bonus

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

27. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
28. Where to Find Past Issues of *SXM Weekly News*
29. Restaurants of the Week: Toppers & iZi
30. Tech Talk

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://everythingsxm.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. Weather: Seasonably Showery

Friday was gorgeous. Thursday night, rain and wind. The past week, mostly fine with seasonable tropical showers. The island is lush, flowering, and beautiful. For the moment, the years-long Caribbean drought seems to have abated, at least in SXM.

2. Hurricane Season Ends a Week From Today

Nothing is forecast to interfere, as of now. If that changes we'll let you know on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Site](#).

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. Sapphire Resort Would-Be Buyer Takes Resort's Developer To Court

Bruno Sitbon was managing Sapphire Resort for a few years and spending his own money to improve the place. Things fell apart, he says, when the developers -- the Verdiers -- didn't do what he says they promised and, the Sitbons allege, kept money that was intended to be part of the purchase transaction.

It's headed for a showdown in court this week. We're watching it closely for you.

6. Alegria Resort Turns on Dream Bar's Water, Then Loses in Court Again

Alegria Resort seems to be having a bad time in SXM's courts: they keep losing.

Marty's Dream Bar is a long-time Caravanserai tenant that Alegria tried to throw out after buying bankrupt

Caravanseraí. Marty went to court and the court ruled his lease was valid and unbreakable by Alegria, but Alegria kept trying to evict Marty anyway and wound up losing ... multiple times.

Then Alegria allegedly turned off Marty's water. Back to court. Miraculously, the water came back on before the court decided the case in favor of Marty. The court also told Alegria to knock it off or it would impose heavy fines.

Perhaps the folks who bought Alegria, told timeshare owners their contracts were worthless, and pulled these stunts with a loyal tenant ought to sell the place to someone who cares about customers... that would indeed be a welcome novelty.

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

We'll usually be posting timeshare sale / rental ads received from Platinum-status JMB members by 6 pm EST *on any business day*, during that same 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](#).

JMB emailed all Platinum members late last week about this new program. 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), so if you're contemplating Platinum memberships, the wise choice is to join or upgrade now at our low current pricing. N. B.: Our Black Friday promotion begins now...see story 9.

8. 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

9. Our Legendary Black Friday Membership Sale Begins Today, Monday 11/23, at 7 a.m. : Why This Year Is An Especially Appropriate Time To Buy

The Lowest Prices of The Year on new Memberships, Renewals, & Reinstatements

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 or sell 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 in this section).
- Buy Now: Black Friday Sale Prices End Monday 11/30/15

Here are our Black Friday JMB prices and details:

Black Friday New memberships:

\$39 for one year (\$20 off); 3 yrs. \$75; 5 yrs. \$109; 7 yrs. \$139

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml Starts 7 a.m. Monday 11/23

Black Friday Renewal memberships:

One year \$33; 3 yrs. \$64; 6 yrs. \$107 -- our best offer by far

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center* -- Starts 7 a.m. Monday 11/23

Black Friday Membership Reinstatements:

One year \$33; 4 yrs. \$88; 6 yrs. \$107

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml> Starts 7 a.m. Monday 11/23

10. Syrians With Fake Passports Stopped, Arrested, Thrown in SXM Jail

As you may have heard or read in US media, three Syrian men with fake Greek passports arrived on a flight to SXM from Haiti on 11/14. They were quickly detected at SXM Airport and have been detained in jail and interrogated while the police here notified Interpol and other appropriate agencies around the world including in the U. S..

As of Friday the men has not been identified nor had their mission been determined, if there is one here in SXM or elsewhere.

No threat to the island has been detected, but officials aren't taking any chances.

Meanwhile, France has extended the State of Emergency it had declared to all French departments worldwide. It had applied only to mainland France originally. On Friday evening, we were stopped by three gendarmes just outside Marigot. They asked for our license and car papers (rental agreement) and let us continue on our way. They were very polite and spoke good English. Don't drink and drive; wear your seat belt; do not use a cell phone when driving; and respect that they have a job to do.

11. Somber Mood As French Side Mourns the Paris Attacks

Last week's Paris attacks happened after last week's *SXM Weekly News* already had started mailing. Stories spread rapidly on both sides of the island as people contacted friends and relatives to see who was where and if everyone was OK. It was like the US right after 9/11. Flags were lowered on both sides of the island and the mood was somber.

12. No Threats Against SXM Detected, But Island Ups Security Precautions Nonetheless

Lots of things are being done here to protect everyone -- just the same as in mainland France, Britain, and the US. Vigilance is important no matter where you are. If you see something, say something....

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.

It's what else we do.

JMB Communications: www.jmbcommunications.com

Way More Than SXM

13. Few Mosquitoes, No Chikungunya -- But Caution is a Good Idea

Despite recent rains, we've seen almost no mosquitoes -- just "no-see-ums". We've also seen no reports of Chikungunya or the potentially more serious dengue fever but wise people still use mosquito repellent.

We also brought a 3500-volt racquet-like mosquito zapper (Ocean State Job Lot, Massachusetts, \$5) and brought it with us and have used it. We have not seen a lot of bugs.

14. Leisure Car Rental Offers 15% Off Weekly Rentals to JMB Members

One of our newest JMB member discounts is from Leisure Car Rental, the closest rent-a-car company to SXM Airport. Their offer: 15% off their regular low pricing for every week you rent. It's quite a deal.

JMB members, see the Discounts Master Index on the members-only Secret Website for this and more than 240 other discounts and benefits across SXM.

Not a member? Our Black Friday Sale begins today, Monday 11/23. See the top of this Section for more info.

15. Thanksgiving in SXM: Make Reservations Now; Top Restaurants; Reflections on T-Days Past

If you're here for Thanksgiving, make dinner reservations *now*. Watch local newspapers for Thanksgiving menus, featured at many restaurants.

Among the popular places with the best choices: Topper's and Topper's by the Sea; Jimbo's; Pineapple Pete. We've chosen Topper's the last couple of years. Save room for desserts....

Not many years ago the top choices for T-Day were Turtle Pier near the airport; Ric's Place in Simpson Bay; and Andy & Cheryl's on Orient Beach. Turtle Pier was bought by SXM Airport for expansion and was recently demolished; Ric's Place was sold after Ric passed away and has been closed for several years; Andy & Cheryl's continued to operate after Andy passed away but was demolished in the current renovations on Orient Beach.

Check local papers; many others will be offering special Thanksgiving menus.

16. Looking Forward to the Heineken Regatta

A bit over three months from now, the Heineken Regatta takes over the island and throws the biggest parties of the year. We'll cover it as always. More: www.heinekenregatta.com.

17. Our Choices for SXM's Top Jewelry Stores: Think Holidays -- and Valentine's Day

If you're looking for great holiday gifts, you can't do better than the top three SXM jewelry stores: [Zhaveri Jewelers](#); [Oro Diamante](#); and [Caribbean Gems](#). They all offer unique products (ask about one-of-a-kind merchandise) and exquisite designs for all budgets. Lovely stuff...

Follow the links to learn more, or visit them on Front Street.

18. Today's Look at (or Search for) Seaweed

As of Friday night when we wrote this, seaweed was becoming harder to find on SXM. Most beaches are clear and beautiful with crystal-clear waters. Go and enjoy. Water temps are in the 80s....

Caution: Things can change....

19. French Side Plans for New Orient Beach Bars & Restaurants to Open in December

Although the new structures are virtually complete now, they have not been turned over to tenants -- or if they have, no obvious "move-in" activity is underway. The Collectivite has said construction will complete next month and tenants will move in soon thereafter. We expect some could open late in December; hopefully the rest soon after.

Who will be located where? We don't know, but we do know the units closest to Pedro's will be finished first and likely occupied first. Watch our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Site](#) for updates and new photography, some of which was posted over the weekend.

20. New SXM Photo Albums Being Added to Our Everything SXM Facebook Site

We're adding three new photo albums to our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Site](#) in the next week.

They are: 1) an updated album on Villa Onyi, a breathtaking hilltop villa in Point Blanche on which renovations have just been completed. We'll shoot new pictures there this week and post them for you. This is the villa featured on HGTV that has spectacular views of the Caribbean and St. Barths in the distance. It's quite stunning and it's for sale or rent... If you would like to see it, email us with the subject "Villa Onyi" and we'll put you in touch. Asking price is \$459,000. Serious inquiries only.

2) Das Cigars mini factory at the Dr. A. C. Wathey Cruise and Cargo facilities shows how cigars are made by hand and displays and sell cigars by Das. High quality, handmade cigars; they are also sold at numerous locations across the island. For more, go here: <https://www.facebook.com/DasCigars> Tell Andi, the owner, we sent you (he's off-island during Thanksgiving).

3) Orient Beach Construction (now up).

21. Road Through Mullet Bay Has Bright New Street Lights

The dimly lit road is fixed: banks of very bright LEDs light up the road, a huge improvement.

22. Butterfly Update

The tens of thousands of pale yellow Great Southern butterflies here are now being joined by some darker yellow cousins, and some bigger species. Their numbers make some areas look like they're experiencing a light snow flurry at times. It won't stay like this since the flowers the butterflies feed on will soon stop blooming. Photos are coming to our [Facebook Site](#).

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

JMB members who don't have their current 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: no discounts without it.

24. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated Nov. 22 2015)

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 years ago. We thought the idea was great for 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; I feared a mini-stroke.

We arrived at Sapphire minutes later and I called an ambulance. She was treated symptomatically and later, felt better.

Although we later discovered that her incident was related to a food allergy, it was a wake-up call and we became 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.* They've told me the evacuation was handled with military precision and consummate professionalism. SkyMed transported them by ambulance from the hospital 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 three dozen calls to make this happen.

Q. What's so special about SkyMed? Aren't these companies 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. Once you're a member, there's no age or health discrimination -- as long as you pay your membership fee you're good to go. (Applies to all annual and longer memberships. Short-term memberships, lasting only a few days, require medical requalification when you buy another.)

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. Wait - you mean they don't 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 Rx 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. American and Canadian ex-pats living overseas also are eligible.

Q. What types of policies are there?

A. SkyMed Memberships (often called policies by members though they actually are memberships) come in several flavors: short term, for people who travel little and for short durations and are healthy; "annual" for people who want full-year protection that is guaranteed renewable for life when you pay the membership fee on time regardless of age or health at the time of renewal; and Ultimate multiyear memberships which offer low annual cost, maximum benefits, and global coverage and are also renewable for life regardless of age or health.

Q. Which membership gives the biggest bang for the buck?

You clearly get the most for the least with our three-year or five-year Ultimate memberships. Coverage is global, guaranteed renewable, and can not be cancelled due to increasing age or declining health - ever. You'll also pay the same fee as all other members -- there's never an increase related to your personal health or advancing age. Annual memberships are upgradeable to Ultimates at any time.

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, includes coverage 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. 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.

25. 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. Here's why:

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 non JMB members.

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, email jeff@jmbcommunications.com and use the subject SkyMed Inquiry. 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 emailing Jeff directly; include your phone number and he'll call you back. You can learn more about SkyMed at www.skymed.com/jmbsexm but these JMB discounts are not available online. JMB members only, see www.skymed.com/jmbspecial .

When you sign up for the bonus SkyMed memberships shown above, email 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.

26. 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 Temptation, Cupecoy Beach
Dinner for Two at Big Fish, Oyster Pond
Dinner for two at Spiga, Grand Case
Dinner for two at Le Pressoir, Grand Case
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 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.

27. 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 ... we've just surpassed 5000 "likes" so this Thursday, on Thanksgiving, 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.

28. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

29. Restaurants of The Week: iZi Ristorante Italiano

Combine outstanding, authentic Italian cuisine ... an experienced, customer-focused staff ... seasoned management ... and an upbeat, fun ambiance and you're describing iZi Ristorante Italiano, a Simpson Bay staple for many years.

Owned and operated by Davide Foini, IzI is a great place for celebrations as will become quite obvious on your first visit. Chef Stefano recently joined them and he has excellent culinary credentials -- so give iZi a try next time you're on the island. Go for the food, return for the great ambiance... one of our long-time favorites.

See past Restaurant of the Week businesses next week. We'll cover another restaurant here next week.

30. Tech Talk: Shutdown

Many of the techniques we've described help you get better performance from PCs. But before you do some of the more sophisticated things we recommend, try simply closing your programs and doing a cold reboot.

What's that mean? Shut down. After your system has powered off and its lights show no disk activity, remove the power cord and leave it disconnected for at least 30 seconds. Then restart.

This allows your system to reset and restart normally, which fixes some things that may have gone wrong while it was operating -- and that's a good thing.

Next time: two free programs that can help your system run better. Thanks for reading this.

Index of all past Tech Talk stories (alphabetical):

Backing Up #1010
Defragmentation #1006
Malware: Stopping Malware in its Tracks #1011
Shutdown: #1020
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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/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](mailto: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)

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To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *2015-16 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. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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