

#1021 --- Monday, 11/30/15 -- 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 is easily readable on all mobile devices.
Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of all recent editions here:

http://everythingxsm.com/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?>

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:

- Black Friday Membership Sale Ends Monday 11/30**
- Police Investigating Another Bomb Hoax At SXM Airport**
- "Christmas in The Caribbean" Has Everything But Snow: Jimmy Buffett Was So Right**
- New Hampshire Man in Medical Evacuation Flight Home After Serious SXM Boating Accident**

- Supermarket Shopping in SXM Undergoes Radical Change For The Better**
- Rainforest Adventures Eco-Park Groundbreaking Tentatively Set for January**
- La Bamba Beach Bar Closing; Port de Plaisance Owner Gets Property**
- Five Mini Restaurant Reviews**
- Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation**

31 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare 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 only \$849 for rent or \$3749 to buy. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email jeff@jmbcommunications.com

FLOATING WEEK 4/20/15 - 7/1/16 float Oyster Bay Beach Resort This unit can be used as a 2 Br unit, or a studio or a one Bedroom. Completely renovated, units are new, many facing beach, ocean or marina. Large infinity pool, restaurant and other amenities on site of this gated resort with guards. Right on Gorgeous Dawn Beach on the Dutch side, but close to the French side. rental week \$900 studio, \$1200 1 Br, \$1800 2 Br. Leslie 978 525-2358 lebeaulieu@comcast.net

SXM Timeshare Sale 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 only \$849 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the ***SXM Weekly News*** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://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

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

1. Hurricane Season is Over!
2. Weather Transforms to Hot and Relatively Dry; December Winds Coming
3. Tui Flies The 787 Dreamliner To SXM; The First of Many
4. A Great Source of Low Airfares & More Available Free to JMB Members
5. Available to All: FlyTravelGo Is The Easiest-to-Use Travel Reservations Website

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

6. The Best Timeshares to Rent or Buy
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 Ends Monday at 11:59 p.m.: Why This Year Is An Especially Appropriate Time To Buy

10. Police Investigating Another Bomb Hoax At SXM Airport
11. "Christmas in The Caribbean" Has Everything But Snow: Jimmy Buffett Was So Right
12. New Hampshire Man in Medical Evacuation Flight Home After Serious SXM Boating Accident
13. Supermarket Shopping in SXM Undergoes Radical Change For The Better
14. Rainforest Adventures Eco-Park Groundbreaking Tentatively Set for January
15. La Bamba Beach Bar Closing; Port de Plaisance Owner Gets Property
16. Mini Restaurant Review: Big Fish
17. Mini Restaurant Review: Vesna Taverna
18. Mini Restaurant Review: Spiga
19. Mini Restaurant Review: Toppers and Toppers By The Sea
20. Mini Restaurant Review: Daniel's by the Sea
21. More Restaurant Comings & Goings
22. Amazing Real Rotisserie Chicken Coming to SXM This Winter
23. No-see-ums Fairly Common -- And Annoying
24. Reminder: No JMB Membership Card, No Discounts or Benefits in SXM
25. Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
26. Our Double SkyMed Bonus
27. We're Giving Away Eight SXM Vacations... and Tons More
28. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
29. Where to Find Past Issues of *SXM Weekly News*
30. Restaurants of the Week: Toppers & iZi
31. 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://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. Hurricane Season is Over!

It officially ends today, Monday 11/30/15. Storms have been known to hit after this date, but it's highly unlikely....

2. Weather Transforms to Hot and Relatively Dry; December Winds Coming

Showers diminished this past week and weather became hot and rather humid -- upper 80s. If you don't have your SXM tix yet, get them December winds are about to arrive ... a breezy month is coming.

3. Tui Flies 787 Dreamliner To SXM - First of Many

TUI is a low-cost European carrier flying from Amsterdam to SXM. It is using advanced 787 Dreamliner aircraft, competing with KLM 747s. It's the first 787 to serve SXM ... more to follow.

4. 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.*

5. 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

6. Reminder: The Best Timeshares to Rent or Buy

Earlier this year, we ran a series of articles entitled "Timeshare of the Week."

We've now combined all those articles into a new page on everythingxsm.com, our St. Maarten / St. Martin website. Find it here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/Best-St-Maarten-Timeshare-Resorts.shtml

You'll find hundreds of SXM timeshares for rent / sale on everythingxsm.com.

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, 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 ends Monday night 11/30 at 11:59 p.m....see Sec. 3.

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

Rentals of St. Maarten timeshares for this coming winter continue to proceed at what looks like a record pace. Rent now. We have hundreds of rentals from JMB members [here](#).

SECTION 3: Island

9. Our Legendary Black Friday Membership Sale Ends Monday 11/30 at 11:59 p.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 at 11:59 p.m. (Our Holiday Sale begins after that, but the prices aren't the same... Buy now.)

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/reinstate/index.shtml> Starts 7 a.m. Monday 11/23

10. Police Investigating Another Bomb Hoax At SXM Airport

Airport authorities worldwide continue to exercise an abundance of caution in dealing with bomb hoaxes. There were two here last week, one at SXM Airport and the other at a nearby establishment. Flights were delayed as the airport coped with the issue.

There have been bomb hoaxes here a couple of times before, usually aimed at KLM 747s. Police handle all of them with due diligence.

11. "Christmas in The Caribbean" Has Everything But Snow: Jimmy Buffett Was So Right

The Christmas season has begun here with Black Friday sales (not like those at home), real trees offered from refrigerated containers at markets, and everything else you see in America -- but no snow. Jimmy Buffett was right.

Look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Os6wu85r-l4>

12. New Hampshire Man in Medical Evacuation Flight After SXM Boating Accident

A New Hampshire man was seriously injured last week when the dinghy in which he was riding was hit by a speedboat driven by an allegedly intoxicated individual.

Jon Binney of Keene was reported to have suffered severe injuries including two fractured shoulder blades, four broken ribs, a shattered pelvis, and signs of drowning. He was unable to move and had to be rushed by medical evacuation jet to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. The family did not have medical evacuation insurance but family members and friends raised the \$25,000 required to pay for the trip in advance. More:

<http://www.unionleader.com/NH-man-flown-to-Boston-hospital-after-Caribbean-boating-accident>

Unexpected accidents of all descriptions are a leading cause of injuries when traveling and they're one reason we always recommend SkyMed medical evacuation memberships to anyone who ever leaves home. See stories 25 and 26 for more on SkyMed: Go nowhere without it.

**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. Supermarket Shopping in SXM Undergoes Radical Change For The Better

In the Bad Old Days, SXM supermarkets were overpriced and carried a poor selection of goods with date codes that sometimes were expired.

Then the Euro dropped and French Side supermarkets got competitive. Dominant Dutch Side market Le Grand Marche used to attract French Side customers in droves, by default, when the Euro was worth about \$1.48. But with the Euro and Dollar at parity in markets, many Dutch Side buyers went to Super U in Marigot and to Simply in Marigot or Grand Case to shop. Those markets were (and are) priced reasonably, carry quality merchandise, and are clean and pleasant shopping experiences.

The most unpleasant things about Grand Marche were sticky soda and ice cream containers -- and, sometimes outdated merchandise. With sales apparently plummeting due to the Euro's drop, Grand Marche aligned with Carrefour, a French brand, and is totally renovating its stores, especially Cole Bay, with new shelving, new products, better meat / deli quality and displays, and we hope fewer sticky containers.

Nonetheless, if you're going to any Dutch Side market to buy sale merchandise, bring the ad with you and watch the checkouts like a hawk. As we reported recently, ad prices sometimes mysteriously fail to appear at registers in some Dutch Side markets (Sunny Foods, Fresh Market, Grand Marche) and almost invariably, you lose when that happens. Accidental? Could be. But be careful so it does not happen to you.

14. Rainforest Adventures Eco-Park Groundbreaking Tentatively Set for January

We spent some time last week with John Dalton, Chief Engineer for Rainforest Adventures' Eco Park projects. They will soon launch one at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side.

The Eco Park has been contentious on the island because it's sited in what has been designated as a large Dutch Side nature preserve. But the Estate has been poorly cared for with derelict cars and trash on the property.

Rainforest Adventures' project proposes to use only about 3% of the land and will sponsor cleanups and reforestation projects there, a good thing. It will also build a chair lift to the top of the island's second highest peak which will give locals and visitors an astounding view of vast expanses of the island and its neighbors.

The project's groundbreaking is expected to occur in January and local dignitaries will be invited to participate. Hopefully the contentions of the past will subside so the project can move forward. Far from harming the property, it looks to us like this can be a huge help in preserving it for current and future generations to enjoy.

15. La Bamba Beach Bar Closing; Port de Plaisance Owner Gets Property

The La Bamba Beach Bar on Kim Sha Beach in Simpson Bay, between Royal Palm and Atrium, has closed. Our understanding of what happened from someone associated with the Dutch Side government is slightly hazy but the

government wanted to build a sewage treatment plant near Port de Plaisance Resort. It asked the Turkish owner of Port de Plaisance in Cole Bay if he would give them property needed for the plant in return for which the government would give him property it owned at Kim Sha Beach.

Bottom line, La Bamba is gone and the Princess owner will get that property. He can't make a private beach for Port de Plaisance guests since all SXM beaches are public; we have no idea what he'll do with it. That stretch of beach is the home to the Heineken Regatta's biggest party and adjacent land was cited as the probable location of the still-alive American Clinic project.

We'll keep you posted.

16. Mini Restaurant Review: Big Fish

Many years ago -- when Big Fish was at another location, under a different owner -- we went and it was flat out awful. We vowed because of their attitude and the total lack of quality or customer orientation we'd never return.

The only resemblance between that Big Fish and the current Big Fish is the name. The former owner is gone, the location is new, and the chief honchos are Mike and Teresa who formerly managed Bajatsu in Maho.

We went last week and thought it was terrific. Novel menu includes a spectrum of flavors and textures sure to please an equally wide spectrum of preferences. Chef Wendell Laurence knows his stuff, too (he was trained by Davide Foini at IZI in Simpson Bay). Excellent service. Beautiful surroundings.

There are other fine restaurants nearby on Emerald Merritt Road, the road to Oyster Bay Beach Resort on Dawn Beach. Both Canoa (across the street) and Daniel's by the Sea (next door) are exceptional. They're all very different so there's no real competition. If you've not tried Big Fish in a while do it; well worth it. Tell them we sent you....

17. Mini Restaurant Review: Vesna Taverna

Revisited Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay, about 100 yards north of the drawbridge on the lagoon side of Airport road. They're open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; B and L every day and D Wednesday through Sunday.

Go -- especially for dinner. Vesna is Greek, her husband, Chef Yannick, is French, and their dinner menu is a deliciously eclectic mix of French, Greek, and American. Sublimely delicious all around. Neat atmosphere too, with banana trees in front. Tell them we sent you. A winner of our 2015 Everything SXM Award of Excellence.

18. Mini Restaurant Review: Spiga

Spiga is a fine dining Italian Restaurant is beautiful surroundings at the quiet northern end of Grand Case, away from the busy-ness of Boulevard de Grand Case. Innovative ... scrupulously fresh ... exceptional dining ... with unobtrusive but attentive service. Easily one of the top few SXM restaurants and a must-do. Tell co-owner Lara Russo we recommended you to Spiga. A winner of our 2015 Everything SXM Award of Excellence.

19. Mini Restaurant Review: Toppers and Toppers By The Sea

Toppers is authentic home cooking ... generous portions -- very reasonable prices -- all in an informal setting that's perfect for family dining.

"Topper" Daboul knows his stuff and is devout in his quest for the best quality on the island. He will be delighted to tell you how he does it (if time allows, the place is busy). His world-famous brisket melts in your mouth. His new rum cake -- made with rum from his own SXM factory -- will knock you over with its authentic, delicious, full-bodied

flavor. Whether you like beef, poultry, seafood, filet mignon, Osso Buco, homemade meatloaf, or whatever -- the menu is huge, everything is fresh, and you will leave planning your next visit. Just do it. Tell them we recommended you go. Topper is usually at the Simpson Bay location (Topper's). A winner of our 2015 Everything SXM Award of Excellence.

20. Mini Restaurant Review: Daniel's by the Sea

As we've written, Daniel's offers unique dining-under-the-palms ambiance (in gazebos), tradewinds right off the beach, a seasoned staff, and great cooking. It's Italian but it's also Caribbean so you can get a lovable lobster salad here that's a meal in itself, or order a whole lobster fresh from their tank.

Then there's their authentic thin-crust pizza. Tons of possible ingredients all skillfully blended. Emerald Merritt Road, Dawn Beach / Oyster Pond, near Oyster Bay Beach Resort. A winner of our 2015 Everything SXM Award of Excellence. Tell them we sent you.

21. More Restaurant Comings & Goings

Our friend Roddy Heyliger forwards these notes:

-- Thai Savanh down at Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis, Cupecoy Beach) has opened "Little Thai Savanh" in Simpson Bay which is almost across from Banco Caribe;

-- Dish D' Lish is a multi-cuisine restaurant that just recently opened across from the old Le Grand Marche in Simpson Bay;

-- New Italian restaurant under construction in the building "Booze it Up" just across from Plaza Del Sol (Simpson Bay Yacht Club);

More to come...

22. Amazing Real Rotisserie Chicken Coming to SXM This Winter

The real thing is coming to a SXM East Coast location... a knowledgeable friend taste-tested it for the owners and was through the roof with praise. There are other local places already but this one is what you're looking for.

They swore us to secrecy until they're ready ... more to come.

23. No-see-ums Fairly Common -- And Annoying

Hardly any mosquitos so far this trip but there are no-see-ums, the tiny biting insects that leave without being seen. Use bug repellent. "Mosquito Milk" is a local favorite; it's natural and it works.

24. 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 that *they must be used with a valid JMB Website Supporters membership card*. Bring your card: no discounts without it.

25. 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.

26. Our Double SkyMed Bonus

----- SkyMed On Sale: Lots of Life-Saving Benefits, Low Cost -----

If you've been thinking about buying SkyMed but just haven't done it, this is the time.

SkyMed takes you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling — home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust. With rare exceptions, your medical insurance from the US or Canada isn't valid in St. Maarten. There is also no trauma center there, and the sophisticated medical care available at leading US 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/jmbxsm 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.

27. We're Giving Away Eight SXM Vacations... and Tons More

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 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](#)

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'll 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.

Enter here:

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

Full rules are on the page.

28. 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.

29. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

30. Restaurant of The Week:

Returns next week.

31. Tech Talk: Three Great Free System Maintenance Programs

There are lots of great free programs out there to help you optimally maintain your system.

- a) CCleaner helps clean junk off your system, a lot of it. Very good. Free.
- b) Revo Uninstaller gets rid of programs you don't want / no longer use quickly and completely. Free.
- c) If you used "Norton Ghost" to back up your system, check out Macrium Reflect from Paramount Software UK. Lets you create both images and complete backups (you need both; see our article on Backing Up). Great program and it's free.

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 Maintenance Programs (Free) #1021
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_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

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

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsxm.com/secret , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at [support\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](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)

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 *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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