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#1022 --- Monday, 12/7/15 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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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

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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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml
On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

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

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- -- Alegria Accused of Illegally Dumping Dirt on Maho Beach, Endangering Fragile Coral
- -- Sapphire Taken To Court By Would-Be Buyers: What's Going On
- -- Where To Safely Rent Out Or Buy Timeshare Weeks in SXM
- -- Holiday Membership Sale Offers Low Prices on 240+ Discounts & Benefits Across SXM
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- -- Restaurant of the Week

27 news stories this week

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Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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

RENTAL 4/20/2015 - 12/31/2019 year round rental The Cliff at Cupecoy Beach These luxurious 5th floor and 4th floor condos are available as a 2 BR/ 2.5 bath or a 1 BR/ 1.5 bath. The master BRs include a king-sized bed in an oversized bedroom. Each condo has two large balconies that look out over the Caribbean Sea and the French-side mountains. A spacious great room includes a dining area, full kitchen, and comfortable family room. Free WiFi. The Atlantis Casino complex (including restaurants) and beaches are within walking distance. The Cliff has two pools, an exercise room, saunas, steam rooms, a tennis court, and a full-service Christian Dior Spa. For more information: http://www.VRBO.com/202459 or http://www.VRBO.com/445200. Last-minute specials. from \$215 per night Paul 941-306-2045 wsconsult@aol.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 only \$849 to rent**. Photos available. Phone (508) 747-8281 and ask for Jeff or email susan@jmbcommunications.com.

SALE 2/6/2016 2/13/2016 Week 6 Flamingo Beach Resort Unit 7234- Flamingo Beach 2nd floor large studio with beautiful view overlooking beach and sea. Large studio,sleeps 4, king bed and queen pullout sofa with room separator. Recently renovated, fully equipped kitchen, full size appliances, 2 TVs, balcony with table, 4 chairs and chaise lounge, infinity pool, restaurant, deli,casino onsite. Free WIFI. In the heart of Simpson Bay. We have enjoyed this unit since the building was built but will not be able to continue to use it so are looking to transfer to new owner. Also available Unit 7232 next door, same week same details. \$500 or best offer Randy 519 326-8778 evenings 519 326-8633 daytime cynarm@sympatico.ca

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

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- 26. Restaurant of the Week

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

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Five: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 12/31/14)

How To Get a <u>GROWING LIST of 230+</u> 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 <code>jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com</code> 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. 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 <u>SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service</u> 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 everythingsxm.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.

2. 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

3. Alegria Files Fourth Lawsuit Against Marty's Dream Bar

Alegria Resort, formerly Caravanserai, has lost three consecutive lawsuits against Marty's Dream Bar. The Resort wants to get rid of the bar, which courts say has a binding lease the resort must honor. The latest suit appears to be more of the same. Our sense is the judge may not be happy to see a plaintiff trying to do the same thing the court has repeatedly denied, but we'll keep you posted.

4. Alegria Accused of Illegally Dumping Dirt on Maho Beach, Endangering Fragile Coral

Alegria Resort, which is involved with Sunset Bar (formerly Sunset Beach Bar) at Maho Beach, is alleged to have dumped lots of dirt onto the beach to add room for customers watching airplanes and drinking.

The beach is always knocked around by tides. Now, the SXM Nature Foundation says the dirt Alegria allegedly dumped is washing into the ocean and threatening fragile coral nearby. What will happen is anybody's guess -- but it's too late for Alegria to mitigate what it allegedly did.

This episode -- and a second ecological incident, another oil spill in Cay Bay at GEBE's generator operation -- happened when the government is still in a state of flux. Nonetheless, we'll watch what happens and we'll keep you posted.

5. Sapphire Taken To Court By Would-Be Buyers: What's Going On

Sapphire developers Jean and Philippe Verdier are being taken to court by Bruno and Elisa Sitbon. Bruno ran the

resort for a few years and wants to buy it. He says he had an agreement to do so but he claims the Verdiers reneged. Each side blames the other but the court will decide the winner. Hopefully afterwards, Sapphire can better focus on its physical plant, timeshare owners, and visitors.

As always we'll keep you posted.

6. Where to Safely Rent Out or Buy Timeshares in SXM

Winter rentals of St. Maarten timeshares and other properties continue at what may be a record pace. We have hundreds of rentals from JMB members here.

SECTION 3: Island

7. Holiday Membership Sale Offers Ultra-Low Prices on 240+ Discounts & Benefits Across SXM -- Sale on New, Renewal, & Reinstated Memberships is Now Underway

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: Holiday Sale Prices Now In Effect

Holiday Sale New memberships:

3 yrs. \$75; 5 yrs. \$109; 7 yrs. \$139

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

Holiday Sale 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

Holiday Sale Membership Reinstatements:

One year \$39; 4 yrs. \$88; 6 yrs. \$107

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

8. Suspects Captured Moments After Gas Station Robberies

Suspected robbers were captured a short time after two brazen robberies at a gas station in Cole Bay and another in nearby Simpson Bay last week. In the first robbery, an attendant who did not want to hand over cash receipts was shot by the robber and later died of his wounds. The same robbers allegedly went to the second gas station and attempted to rob it but were caught and arrested by police while trying to cross the lagoon via the causeway. Much evidence was in the car, police said.

Police visibility has markedly increased here and police responsiveness to calls seems to be quick and intense. Police are making arrests faster now thanks to witnesses calling when they see anything unusual. *If you see something, say something* -- here as well as anywhere else.

9. About SXM Roads

If you're a newbie and expect great roads here, that's not what SXM is. It's two-lane roads on both sides of the

island; traffic lights that don't necessarily work; roundabouts; and occasional turning lanes. No underpasses / overpasses or tunnels. It can be slow but the Lagoon Causeway, now almost two years old, has done a huge job of improving traffic.

10. The Price of Gas

Although gas at home in the US and Canada is cheaper now than in years, it's not cheap in SXM. Never has been.

It's priced in Euros or Guilders per liter, which is perplexing to most Americans. On the French Side, Euros are 1:1 at some gas stations with dollars. On the Dutch Side, it's all in Guilders -- roughly Fls 1.78 per dollar. \$20 will buy you perhaps a bit over half a tank at most stations. The Cadisco station on the lagoon north of Simply Market in Marigot is about the cheapest and it is 1:1 dollars to Euros.

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

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Way More Than SXM

11. Where Are the Best Places to Shop on SXM?

There's no comparison: there are more and better bargains in downtown Philipsburg than anywhere else.

The Blue Mall near Cupecoy beach has international brands on three floors but pricing is high compared to the US. Shop downtown Philipsburg for jewelry, cigars (ask for Das cigars by name -- they're high quality and they're made here), and souvenirs / gifts.

The island could use a Best Buy and an outlet mall but it has neither....

12. Highly Addictive: Toppers Rhum Cake

We bought a small one - plenty for two people. Go to Toppers in Simpson Bay or Toppers by the Sea and absolutely, positively buy one, along with some Toppers Rum and maybe lunch or dinner too. Great food, reasonable prices, real home cooking, and rum cake. It's luscious....

13. Best Places to Watch Football

Toppers in Simpson Bay, unless you want to go to a Casino or a bar (not all bars have TVs). Perfect food and plenty of beer.... Unfortunately the SPN Sports Bar has closed. Toppers is in Simpson Bay.

14. Lots of Bargains on Front Street, Philipsburg

We wanted to be sure you didn't miss article 11: Front Street is the place. See story #11.

15. New Year's Eve Fireworks Display Set for Simpson Bay Lagoon

At many SXM businesses, you'll find a jar enabling you to contribute to the New Year's Eve fireworks at Simpson Bay lagoon. Thousands are expected to cram the shore or be aboard boats in the lagoon (see www.sailstmaarten.com and call Neil for reservations, if room is left). Fireworks will be set off from a barge in the lagoon. Great place: Lal's on the water; eat late (reservations essential) and enjoy the view. Great food for all tastes.

16. Some Words to Remember from Roddy Heyliger

Roddy Heyliger is a PR guy on SXM who contributes to SXM Weekly News. This letter, about terrorism, is particularly apropos (edited for space):

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is in the Caribbean. 100-130 fighters, mostly from Trinidad & Tobago, according to US Marine General John Kelly, have joined ISIS in Syria; some have carried their families with them. A woman from Aruba was arrested in Belgium in August 2014 after she became suspected of recruiting for ISIS, according to Belgian government officials.

General Kelly of the U.S. Southern Command stated his concerns in March in a Pentagon briefing adding that fighters could return to the Caribbean, unmonitored and radicalized. People from the Caribbean who have joined ISIS come from Jamaica and [South] American countries (Suriname, Venezuela), according to the General.

It should be welcome news for Caribbean countries including Sint Maarten that the Government of Trinidad & Tobago is considering curtailing the right of free, unrestricted and unhindered entry of nationals who try to return after joining ISIS.

Other Caribbean nations should join in [this policy] to protect the fragile tourism industry. Tourism is one of the Caribbean's major economic sectors, responsible for approximately 25 million visitors annually and contributing close to US\$50 billion to regional economies including Sint Maarten. The Caribbean has been described as the most tourism-dependent region in the world.

Cayman Islands Commissioner of Police David Baines stated the Caribbean region is not immune to the threats stemming from global terrorism. Baines stated that the region is a popular destination for American tourists, adding that the Caribbean also had to be alert to more direct threats.

According to the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), over half the number of visitors who visit the Region are Americans 12+ million, Europeans 4+ million and Canadians 3+ million.

Baines, who is also Head of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police, in a media statement, said: "As threats of terrorism increase globally, threats in the Caribbean also increase. Cruise ships in the Caribbean, for instance, can be vulnerable, and we need to be [alert] to those risks to prevent the kind of incident down the road...."

A regional database of banned persons is needed for the Region that Caribbean immigration and national security services have quick and easy access to. A regional approach is needed to fight ISIS. Baines stated that U.S. military leaders had highlighted the Caribbean as an "underbelly of weakness" and a "blind spot" for their intelligence services.

Kudos to the Sint Maarten Immigration & Border Protection Service staff at SXM Airport, who swiftly identified fake (Greek) travel documents carried by three individuals who may be Syrians, and who travelled via Haiti last month [to land] here. A Police report [said] their final destination was Europe.

17. About December Winds & Christmas Worms

December typically brings windy conditions to SXM and last Friday, that started with a bang -- an early morning squall crossed the island prefaced by strong winds which lasted over much of the day, particularly on the exposed eastern coast. Winds are likely to be brisk much of this month as the climate changes to tropical winter conditions.

Christmas worms look a bit like bright red gummy worms. When you touch them, they curl up into corkscrew shapes that are easily thrown out the door -- unless there are dozens of them, in which case a broom works. They appear only in December but we haven't seen any in a few years. If we see any this year we'll post pictures on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site.

18. Mario's Bistrot: A New Highlight of Dutch Side Dining

Mario's Bistrot, a Marigot landmark for decades, moved recently to elegant new surroundings in Porto Cupecoy. Walk to the seaside shops and you'll find it on the right, near the water.

We'll go soon. Friends who have already visited say the dining is as fantastic as ever and the surroundings are beautiful; we stopped by for a look last week and were highly impressed. Their site (from their former location): http://www.mariosbistro.com/. It appears not to have been updated in some time -- the old Marigot location is closed.

19. Chef Dino Jagtiani's New Grill at Starz Casino Lets You Munch on The "Jeff Burger"

A couple of months ago, multi award-winning Chef Dino Jagtiani of Temptation Restaurant in Cupecoy told us he was opening a new Grill in the former haunts of Sugar Cane Cafe at Starz Casino, Cupecoy Beach. The grill is now open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It's a casual place serving burgers, salads, and lots more.

Dino asked for our permission to offer a "Jeff Burger" on the menu and we were delighted to say "yes." So if you ever wanted to take a bite out of Jeff Berger, the Jeff Burger gives you something great to taste. (Yummm...)

Try it, you'll like it... at "The Grill, by Chef Dino Jagtiani," Cupecoy Beach.

20. 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.

21. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated Dec. 4 2015)

Here are newly 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 <u>in cash in advance</u> without SkyMed; thousands of you have bought it through us. To learn more, see <u>www.skymed.com/jmbspecial</u>.

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 your 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 quite important. You'll find them on our downloadable **SkyMed Benefits PDF**, now on our <u>SXM Weekly News PDF Archives</u> 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 of you're still medically acceptable -- so just don't let it lapse.

Q. I have a few medical issues and I'm in my 70s. 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 when you need an emergency 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 just 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, <u>buy it before you need it!</u> 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 HomeTM; What else matters?

For more, see skymed.com/imbspecial (JMB members) or www.getskymed.com (non-JMB members) or emailto:emai

22. 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. Credit Card evacuation programs take you to the nearest appropriate facility; what good is that? There is also no trauma center in SXM, 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 that's exactly where SkyMed takes you.

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 in total 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 (or \$59/month) — 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/jmbsxm but these JMB discounts are not available online. JMB members only, see www.skymed.com/jmbspecial. Or just go to www.getskymed.com/.

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 JMB membership extension bonus. But do it soon... this won't last forever.

23. 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 Sushiitto

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 <u>Fusion Restaurant</u>, Simpson Bay Dinner for two at <u>iZi Ristorante Italiano</u>, Simpson Bay

Massage from Tricia Altenau of AIA Massage Therapies, the island's most sought-after massage therapist

More prizes may be coming.

We'll draw the vacation winners live on the air on Island 92 radio in 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

Full rules are on the page.

24. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page

Our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>, 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.

25. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

26. Restaurant of The Week: Cugini

Cugini Restaurant in Simpson Bay, next to Fedex, reopened a few weeks ago under the able management of Tony Piscione, with Sam Runza expected back from Toronto later on.

Previously located for years in Marigot, Cugini (which means "cousins" as in Tony and Sam) was hailed by widely syndicated TV Chef Jim Gray, who does "the tastiest two minutes in television." He loved Cugini from the start and had urged us to visit.

We love it; it's conveniently located in Simpson Bay, offers great food, friendly and capable servers, and a relaxed, fun ambiance. Do give them a try. We'll be back there soon.

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

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

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

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

Cugini (12/7/15)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Pressoir, http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com (featured 7/6/15)

Temptation, http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/19/15)

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 2/23/15)

Island Pizza, http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 5/18/15)

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/2/15)

Papagayo, http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php (featured 5/4/15)

Coconut Grove (formerly SPN Cafe), http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html (featured 8/18/14)

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there). (featured 4/27/2015)

FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 4/13/15)

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/10/14)

Topper's / Topper's By The Sea http://www.sxmtoppers.com/ (featured 6/29/15)

Taloula Mango http://www.taloulamango.com/ (featured 4/20/15)

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm (featured 1/12/15)

27. Tech Talk: Power Options

A majority of computer users today use laptops or iPads as their primary computers. These devices have various power options. Which should you use?

The good news is that for most systems, when you recharge and how much you recharge doesn't matter. With earlier batteries, it was wise to let them become almost completely exhausted before charging, to prevent premature wear-out. In most cases now, it doesn't matter, but consult your "power" options instructions to see.

Most systems now offer a range of power options ranging from high performance to eco/power-saver, which is slower but helpful in extending battery time. We tend to use high-power when the system is plugged in, but lighter power-use choices under other circumstances. Try them to see how they affect performance and battery life on your system.

Index of all past Tech Talk stories (alphabetical):

Backing Up #1010 Defragmentation #1006

Malware: Stopping Malware in its Tracks #1011

Power Options #1022 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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml 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 $\underline{\text{www.everythingsxm.com/secret}}\;.$

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

See <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

CONTACT US

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

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

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

To change your email address, visit http://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi, select *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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