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#1031 --- Monday, 2/8/2016 -- 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

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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 over 260,000 readers around the world...

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



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Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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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 (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks).

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

- *Bulletin: Latest Info on the Zika Virus and SXM; Mosquito Fogging Tests Begin***
- *Pelican Resort Auction Reaffirmed by Court; Why It's So Important***
- *Next Hurricane Season May Be Much Busier -- Or Not***
- *Metamorphosis: Simpson Bay Resort No Longer Timesharing's Ugly Ducking***
- *Meanwhile, a Court Decision March 8 Could Change Everything at Sapphire...***
- *Final Week - BoGo Sale for Valentine's Day: Buy One, Gift One Free JMB Memberships***
- *Get Valentines Day Jewelry Specials Now Direct from Top SXM Jewelers (Ends 2/15)***
- *Now Two Great Choices for Island Souvenirs: Rima and Windmill Shop***
- *A Closer Look at Celine Too, Capt. Neil's New 62' Catamaran / Motor Yacht: 50% Off Sunset Sails for Members***
- *How To Get Your Aqua Mania Discount (JMB Members Only)***
- *New Restaurants***
- *How To Make Your Own Caribbean / SXM Charm Bracelet***
- *Age Is No Deterrent to Getting SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection***
- *Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation***
- *We're Giving Away Ten SXM Vacations... and Tons More***

[36](#) news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete [Table of Contents](#)

Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

Not in archives.

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

Not in archives.

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

1. Weather Settles Into Its Usual Winter Pattern

2. "FlyTravelGo" Lets You Compare Fares Easily Online & Buy What's Best for You
3. Next Hurricane Season May Be Much Busier -- Or Not 12-15 named storms, 6-8 hurricanes, 2-3 major hurricanes
4. Where to Find Current Weather Observations & Forecasts
5. American Airlines Changing Its AAdvantage Frequent Flyer Program
6. JetBlue American Express Card Disappears Next Month; Barclay Let Blue MasterCard Coming

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

6a. Pelican Resort Auction Reaffirmed by Court; Why It's So Important

7. Metamorphosis: Simpson Bay Resort No Longer Timesharing's Ugly Ducking
8. Meanwhile, a Court Decision March 8 Could Change Everything at Sapphire...
9. ...While Sapphire Timeshare Owners Continue to Vent at the Verdiers
10. Where To Rent or Buy an SXM Timeshare
11. SXM Full-Share Condos: Indigo Bay Just Keeps on Going
12. Indigo Bay Hotel Announcement Expected Soon

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](#)

13. Final Week - BoGo Sale for Valentine's Day: Buy One, Gift One Free JMB Memberships

14. Get Valentines Day Jewelry Specials Now Direct from Top SXM Jewelers (Ends 2/15)

15. Bulletin: Latest Info on the Zika Virus and SXM; Mosquito Fogging Tests Begin

16. At "Simply" Market, You're Better Off to Pay Cash (Better Yet: Go to Super U Instead)
17. Shopping's Great, But Front Street & Back Street are Not Best for Driving
18. Now Two Great Choices for Island Souvenirs: Rima and Windmill Shop
19. Where to See SXM Photos & Comments from Travelers Like You
20. A Closer Look at Celine Too, Capt. Neil's New 62' Catamaran / Motor Yacht: 50% Off Sunset Sails for Members
21. How To Get Your Aqua Mania Discount (JMB Members Only)
22. Take a Safari at the SXM Zoological Park
23. New Restaurants: Sale & Pepe Debuts in Simpson Bay; New Italian Choice for Lunch & Dinner
24. New Restaurants: Connie's Opens on Simpson Bay (Healthy Dining Marries Great Taste)
25. Special: How To Make Your Own Caribbean / SXM Charm Bracelet
26. Where to Go for Valentine's Day
27. Restaurant of the Week
28. Get Exactly What You Want to Busby's Beach Bar
- 29. Age Is No Deterrent to Getting SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection**
- 30. Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation**
31. Got Other SkyMed Questions? Here's Where to Ask
32. Our New *Triple* SkyMed Bonus
- 33. We're Giving Away Ten SXM Vacations... and Tons More**
34. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
35. Where to Find Past Issues of *SXM Weekly News*

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

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

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

How To Get a ***GROWING LIST of 230+*** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

Contact Us:

[Revised 2/24/15]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at support@jmbcommunications.com

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including *Low Airfare Bulletins*) read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Weather Settles Into Its Usual Winter Pattern

Daytime temps are 83-84 and there are very brief widely scattered showers, mostly light at this time of year. Occasionally showers can be heavier but they're usually brief. As we go through winter showers will be lighter moving into the dry season.

In other words: gorgeous. Thursday morning it was chilly, with temps plunging to about 73 and wind chill probably (brrr) around 69.

No seaweed.

2. Newly Redesigned "FlyTravelGo" Travel Website Lets You Compare Fares Easily Online & Buy What's Best for You

Our flytravelgo.com website has been redesigned to give you clear preferences when you buy airfare. Now, you can quickly and easily select what's important to you: getting there fast with a minimum number of stops (or none); price; specific airline; time of day. The site also lets you look at fares for specific dates or nearby dates, which may save you money.

FlyTravelGo has become a favorite of many of our readers and their families and friends. Check it out at www.flytravelgo.com.

3. Next Hurricane Season May Be Much Busier -- Or Not

Colorado State University - widely regarded as a top source of hurricane predictions - says the 2016 hurricane season may be much busier than last year.

Or not.

If it's busier, that may mean 12-15 named storms, 6-8 hurricanes, and 2-3 major hurricanes. Then again, Colorado State says it could fizzle.

We've been under the influence of a major El Nino in the pacific but that may switch to a La Nina later this year. That's the gating factor and right now, nobody knows whether that switch will happen. Stay tuned... we'll keep you posted.

4. Where to Find Current Weather Observations & Forecasts

Go to www.everythingsxm.com -- the current SXM weather forecast is on our home page and on our Weather page; you can click those links for detailed forecasts. Our Weather page also includes many constantly updated satellite images and radar loops.

5. American Airlines Changing Its AAdvantage Frequent Flyer Program

Here are the details from AA: <http://tinyurl.com/pzpqbq2>

6. JetBlue Amex Card Disappears Next Month; Barclay Jet Blue MasterCard Coming

American Express' long association with jetBlue comes to an end late next month when its jetBlue American Express Cards cease operation, to be replaced by jetBlue master cards from Barclay's Bank. The replacement cards will be mailed to former Amex users in the coming weeks.

Jet Blue reminds customers to download purchase records from Amex since those records will no longer be available after the late-March switchover. That may be important for tax and other purchase records.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6a. Pelican Resort Auction Reaffirmed by Court; Why It's So Important

Last week an appeal court in SXM reaffirmed the validity of the sale of Pelican Resort (now Simpson Bay Resort) in a bankruptcy auction. The sale happened several years ago. A Royal Resorts-related company bought it and rapidly transformed it from a low rating with exchange company Interval International to an A rating. A separate story about Simpson Bay appears below.

Simpson Bay timeshare owners, and other SXM timeshare owners, need to understand what this ruling means. Had the court reversed the auction, the ownership of "Pelican" (since renamed Simpson Bay) would have been thrown up in the air, much as what happened at Caravanserai Resort more than a year ago. There, investor Ray Sidhom bought the resort and immediately declared all timeshare owner contracts null and void, a move that is still being contested in court.

At Simpson Bay, resort owner Royal Resorts spent \$600,000 of its own money (no special assessments involved) to fight the challenge and won. Had they lost, a precedent may have been set that could have reverberated throughout the entirety of timesharing across the island -- and not in a good way. It could possibly have left the door open to more Caravanserai-like disasters in which timeshare owners lost their entire investments.

One last note. In a future story, we'll talk again about Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection. Every St. Maarten timeshare resort -- with the sole exception of those operated by Diamond Resorts (operator of Royal Palm and Flamingo) -- now supports Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection legislation. They are working to make it happen. *Timeshare owners need to bombard the local papers with letters asserting the necessity that timeshare owners be involved in this process now.* Their unique perspective must be addressed or the legislation could wind up being window dressing. SXM - Daily Herald Letters Page <editorial@thedailyherald.com>; Today newspaper Hilbert Haar <todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com>.

More to come.

7. Metamorphosis: Simpson Bay Resort No Longer Timesharing's Ugly Ducking

There was a time in the 90s when Pelican Resort developer Martin Vleitmann allowed that resort to become something akin to decrepit -- so much so that two warring factions vowed to "get the keys" and take it over.

They succeeded, but dozens of lawsuits followed and they never got to do the kind of deep renovations the resort needed.

Fast forward to the last few years. After tens of thousands of timeshare owners sold their units at a sharp loss or walked away from them, and the resort was split (Royal Palm, Atrium, and Flamingo years ago were all parts of Pelican), Royal Resorts took it over when it declared bankruptcy. Later they decided to do floor-to-ceiling renovations paid for by huge assessments (SMFs) on timeshare owners. They had to; the place was a disastrous mess, worse than most everyone realized at the time.

The good news is that the difference in the inside of the buildings is absolutely startling. They're beautiful, and reflect the best amenities and accoutrements found in the country's top resort hotels.

We never would recommend any timeshare as an investment. But with upgrades set to finish this year, Simpson Bay is the best of the lot. Buy on the resale market to save thousands of dollars. But if the date you want or the size room you need isn't available, go to the resort; they'll have it. Go to our www.everythingsxm.com and you'll find many Simpson Bay units for sale or rent directly from their timeshare owners.

8. Meanwhile, a Court Decision March 8 Could Change Everything at Sapphire...

Bruno Sitbon and his family spent millions on the inner workings of Sapphire in anticipation of buying that resort, Mr. Sitbon told us. But he charged in court a few weeks ago that Philippe and Jean Verdier, Sapphire developers, not only took their deposit illegally, but that they were in the Dutch equivalent of breach of contract for not doing what they promised: providing detailed audited financials which were a key basis for the sale.

The court decision is expected March 8. We'll keep you posted.

9. ...While Sapphire Timeshare Owners Continue to Vent at the Verdiers

On The Petition Site, Sapphire timeshare owners continue to vent their anger at the Verdiers. See their petition and join in: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/754/035/937/maintenance-fees-sapphire-hotel-sint-maarten/>

10. Where To Rent or Buy SXM Timeshares

If you want a SXM timeshare condo for a fraction of what the resort would charge, buy directly from the timeshare owner -- not the resort. Go to our www.everythingsxm.com and click Timeshare Rentals / Sales and you'll find hundreds of them. Most are for sale for far less than the timeshare owner paid, and way less than you'd pay the resort.

We also accept ads only from our JMB Website Supporters members, people who are not strangers to us.

11. SXM Full-Share Condos: Indigo Bay Just Keeps on Going

The sprawling upscale seaside condo / home development Indigo Bay, on "the hill" below the scenic overlook, just keeps on going and growing.

"We anticipated three economic downturns through completion of the plan," developer Steve Smith told us a while back, but nobody expected the "Great Recession." Nonetheless, this project has not only survived but prospered. It's also the home of Kokomo Bar / Restaurant and other side projects, and has beautifully manicured grounds.

If you're interested in a condo with amazing views, security, and a great central location, you should look into Indigo Bay.

12. Indigo Bay Hotel Announcement Expected Soon

When we saw Indigo Bay's project plans early-on, they included a small upscale hotel on the property. That was a late phase Indigo plan and now we're hearing it's close to reality.

We'll give you all the details here as soon as they're formally announced, possibly as soon as a month from now.

SECTION 3: Island

13. Final Week -- Buy One Get One Free Valentine's Day JMB Membership Sale-- Nearly 260 St. Maarten / St. Martin Island Discounts & Other Benefits

When you buy a new BOGO membership, BOGO renew your current membership, or BOGO reinstate a former JMB membership you get a new one year membership *for someone special living at a different address*. Click the links below for details. When you do this you look good; your friends benefit; and it costs you nothing extra.

What You Get:

- A growing list of nearly 260 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).
- A free one-year "BOGO" membership for a friend or relative not living with you
- Buy Now: Use Your Discounts & Benefits on Your Next Trip

New memberships:

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

Renewal memberships:

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

Membership Reinstatements:

<http://everythingxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

14. Valentines Day Jewelry Specials Coming to JMB Website Supporters Members

Hand-picked Valentines Day special jewelry offers at Black Friday-like extraordinary price points were emailed a week ago to all JMB Website Supporters members. Offers are from Caribbean Gems, Zhaveri Jewelers, and Oro Diamonte. All offers require you to provide your JMB Membership Card info (membership number and expiration date). Valid current cards only can be accepted. All offers are subject to reasonable limitations. Supplies are ample but offers are first come, first served.

If you missed the mailing, go here: <http://www.jmbcommunications.com/VDay2016.pdf> Not a member? See story #13.

15. Bulletin: Latest Info on the Zika Virus and SXM; Mosquito Fogging Tests Begin

There is an enormous amount of mis- information out there about the Zika virus which may be panicking many people unnecessarily -- and failing to warn the smaller vertical population that may well be affected by Zika. So we're writing to set things straight.

Here we go. Revised Friday February 5:

1. As of several days ago there was one confirmed case of Zika on SXM, on the French Side. There are other suspected cases. There is nothing even remotely resembling an epidemic on SXM.
2. In 60-80% of cases (depending on whom you listen to), Zika shows no symptoms at all. You could have it and never know it. In cases where symptoms are felt, they're mild and are gone in two to several days. They are joint pain and a rash but again, in most cases there are no symptoms at all.
3. To the general population Zika is no big deal. But to pregnant women (apparently especially those in their first trimester) and to women attempting to conceive, officials say Zika can cause severe birth defects including microcephaly where children are born with unusually small heads and may die at a very young age. For them, Zika is a huge deal.
4. If you are not of child-bearing age and live in a cold climate, going to an area with Zika does not pose any danger to you. Use mosquito repellents as always to prevent bites and possible exposure to Zika and other more-serious-to-non-breeding adults mosquito-borne illnesses. But... and this is critical ... do not have sex with any woman who is newly pregnant or attempting to conceive after returning. Last week it was concluded that Zika can be sexually transmitted. If you have Zika without symptoms, you can spread it by having sex with an uninfected person. If that person is a woman who either is pregnant or who becomes pregnant, the baby may be born with deformities.
5. If you are of child bearing age and are pregnant, or are attempting to conceive, doctors and public health officials are urging you to stay away from any area where Zika has been shown to be present, including SXM. It would also be wise to avoid sex with anyone who has recently traveled to an infected area even if they displayed no symptoms. We do not know how long this prohibition should last; ask your doctor.
6. All areas where Zika is present are working to eliminate mosquito breeding and kill mosquitoes to stop the spread of the virus. Brazil has been especially hard hit as has Colombia. Even in Dutch St. Maarten, fogging on a test basis began already, on February 5 -- and as of several days ago there were no confirmed Dutch Side Zika cases at all.
7. There is no treatment or vaccine for Zika. Zika is now considered a global health crisis because of its prospective effect on unborn children so vaccine development is being fast-tracked. It is believed that a vaccine may be ready for deployment in the hardest hit areas late this year at the earliest, well after the 2016 Brazil Summer Olympics.
8. Airlines are allowing people who were planning to visit areas affected by Zika to cancel or reschedule their trips. Unless you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, there's no reason to change your plans.

Feel free to share this information.

16. At "Simply" Market, You're Better Off to Pay Cash (Better Yet: Go to Super U Instead)

Most French Side markets are currently accepting dollars at par with Euros. Whether that will continue now as the dollar has started to fall in value, we don't know.

Cash is the best way to pay since most credit cards charge international fees and those that don't may charge in Euros converted to dollars -- not 1:1. One reader complained of being ripped off that way recently at Simply.

Cash is the best way to go. If you have Bank of America, you can use Scotiabank ATMs without fees thanks to reciprocity between those banks.

17. Shopping's Great, But Front Street & Back Street are Not Best for Driving

Thanks to "settling," the cobblestone-like surfaces of Front Street and back Street in Philipsburg have an uneven surface that somewhat resembles a ski area with moguls. Walk there instead of driving, and stay on the sidewalks. At least they're even. The island will likely repair this after high season.

More stories follow.

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

18. Now Two Great Choices for Island Souvenirs: Rima and Windmill Shop

Rima offers a huge discount (over 30%) on all its online souvenir merchandise to JMB Website Supporters members. See the Secret Site for details. Not a member? Look here for membership info in story 13 or here: :

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

19. Where to See SXM Photos & Comments from Travelers Like You

Right here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/?ref=br_rs

20. A Closer Look at The Celine Too, Capt. Neil's New 62' Catamaran / Motor Yacht:

50% Off Sunset Sails for Members & Much More

Captain Neil Roebert has been offering low-cost sunset cruises to our JMB members ever since JMB Website Supporters started in 2002.

His new boat is Celine Too, a 62' catamaran motor yacht which began seeing service in 2015. It replaced his beloved Celine after she sank at the pier when hit by another boat during Hurricane Gonzalo in 2014

On www.sailstmaarten.com, you'll find out much more about what Neil does on Celine Too. Pub / Restaurant crawls; Sunset Cruises; the Friday Fun Sail to Tintamarre (clothing optional) which Jeff has enjoyed many times; and private day charters to neighboring islands. Check it out and tell him we sent you.

Don't forgot his 50% discount on sunset sails. Use your valid, current JMB Membership Card. See the Secret Site for details. Not a JMB member yet? Valentine's Day BOGO sale underway; see story 13.

21. How To Get Your Aqua Mania Discount (JMB Members Only)

One of our most highly used discounts is for Aqua Mania, the St. Maarten organization that represents literally hundreds of activities. Our partnership with them gives JMB members discounts on all activities. See the Secret Site; it gives you our members-only discount code. Use it to make reservations, but bring your Membership Card when getting your activity: you are not entitled to the members-only discount without your current, valid JMB Membership Card and a government-issued photo ID.

Still not a JMB member? Valentine's Day BOGO sale underway; see story 13.

22. Take a Safari at the SXM Zoological Park

The St. Maarten Zoo / Park has a unique collection of tropical / Caribbean animals -- and it, like hundreds of other businesses, also gives discounts to JMB Website Supporters members. Take a look: <http://www.stmaarten.org/>

23. New Restaurant: Sale & Pepe in Simpson Bay Serving Lunch & Dinner

Opposite Avantika in Simpson Bay you'll find the new Sale (Sal) and Pepe Italian Restaurant, opened only about a month or so ago. Open for lunch and dinner, Sale and Pepe offers fresh and delicious meals at very reasonable cost. We tried both their ratatouille and chicken Milanese lunches -- quite delicious and filling. We'll be back. Very good new restaurant. Chef is from Italy and is very responsive to culinary requests.

24. New Restaurants: Connie's in Simpson Bay; Healthy Dining Marries Great Taste

Connie hails from Manitoba and agrees that the weather in SXM is far preferable this time of year. Opened last fall in the St. Maarten Yacht Club opposite Zee Best, Connie's offers creative, delicious vegan, vegetarian, and carnivore dining. Lots of choices with flavors which may be entirely new to you. Definitely give it a try. It's in the site formerly occupied by Valentino's.

25. Special: How To Make Your Own Caribbean / SXM Charm Bracelet

Scroll up and check story 14, then click the link: you'll find dozens of charms in a few Philipsburg jewelry stores where you can create your own unique Caribbean charm bracelet. Some JMB staffers relaxing here have already done it. Definitely check it out. Huge variety of quality charms is available for JMB members at very special pricing.

26. Where to Go for Valentine's Day

The busiest restaurants get booked early. Check out our Restaurants of the Week, below, and get your reservation booked now. Since it's on a Sunday night, many folks are also booking Saturday the 13th...so that will be very busy too. Book *early*.

We'll be posting some Valentine's Day special graphics on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) this week.

27. Restaurant of the Week: Big Fish in Dawn Beach

For the first time we're honoring Big Fish in Dawn Beach as Restaurant of the Week. Run by Mike and Teresa (formerly of Bajatsu at Maho), Big Fish serves much more than fish -- they have lots of meat selections and even sushi. Jeff, a sushi addict, has had several full sushi dinners there and also raves about their homemade desserts. Ilene, his better half, loves the hurricane shrimp appetizer.

Delicious food and plenty of it. Very reasonable pricing. Very nice informal upscale ambiance. It's a very inviting place. Make reservations; this place is usually very busy. They can also accommodate groups.

Big Fish is located in the "culinary village" on Emerald Merrit Road in Dawn Beach, the road to Oyster Bay Beach Resort. You'll find Daniel's By The Sea, Canoa, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, and Island Pizza on the same road. Definitely add Big Fish to your list and tell them we sent you.

See past Restaurant of the Week selections 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. Sill not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see story 13.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 2/8/16)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 12/14/15)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 2/1/16)
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 12/21/15)
Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 1/26/15)
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)
Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>
Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/19/15)
Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 2/23/15)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 1/25/16)
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, Maho complex at Le Terasse
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 4/13/15)
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/10/14)
Topper's / Topper's By The Sea <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 6/29/15)
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15)
Bylbos, Simpson Bay
Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

28. Get Exactly What You Want to Busby's Beach Bar

One of the many neat things about Mr. Busby's beach bar in Dawn Beach -- beside its great location and huge menu -- is the responsiveness of its staff. Chief honcho Daniel Jurczenko and his manager Laurell (LuLu, whom we've often called "Wonder Woman") will take the order not only for what's on the menu, but they'll also make whatever you ask for if they have the ingredients and it's not too busy.

For example, if you like burgers (theirs are luscious) and like ice cream, why not a burger with ice cream on top? It's kind of like a cheeseburger when you come to think of it ...

For breakfast, how about a grilled cheese sandwich on a baguette with grilled veggies?

Great stuff. Go. See www.dawnbeachsxm.com.

29. Age Is No Deterrent to Getting SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection

SkyMed has no upper age limit on applications for its medical evacuation protection. It does not matter if you're 89 -- apply away anyway, there is no charge for applications. SkyMed takes you home to doctors and hospitals and doctors you know in trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. See www.getskymed.com for more but read the next few articles; they answer many questions. You can also contact Jeff for more info at jeff@getskymed.com.

30. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 1/8/16)

Here are constantly 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.getskymed.com.

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 quite important. You'll find them on our downloadable SkyMed Benefits PDF, now on our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#) page.

Q. 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 70s. Will SkyMed accept me?

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. By the way: if you travel very little and only for short periods, you can apply for SkyMed's short-term memberships. They cover all pre-

existing conditions.

Q. We travel 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're away a majority of the time and that means you represent increased exposure. That program is called X-Pat - the program for American and Canadian expatriates living overseas. Even as an ex-pat living in SXM, you can still be transported back to your city of choice in the USA or Canada.

Q. Does SkyMed cover pre-existing conditions?

A. Yes, right away for short-term memberships and after just a 90 day waiting period for all memberships lasting a year or longer. 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. Do you require a physical exam for renewal or when I reach a certain age?

A. No, SkyMed requires neither. Once you join and buy an annual or multiyear membership, we'll renew it every year upon payment of your renewal fee. No physical exam is required regardless of your age or health if you've paid your membership on time. You can be age 109 and still be protected by your SkyMed membership.

Q. What is the maximum age for applying for membership?

A. No maximum *at all*. Apply away.

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. *Annual* and multiyear 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; "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 when membership fees are paid on time.

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. And 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. Does SkyMed cover us no matter where we travel?

The basic SkyMed "Takes You Home™" plan covers you in the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the

Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. The Ultimate membership covers you globally through SkyMed Global -- or you can add a global rider to annual memberships (at \$100/year) which adds rest-of-the-world coverage, also through SkyMed Global. SkyMed does not cover countries where there are open hostilities -- Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, North Korea, etc.

SkyMed Takes You Home®: What else matters?

For more, see skymed.com/jmbspecial (JMB members) or www.getskymed.com (non-JMB members) or email Jeff Berger directly at jeff@getskymed.com with the subject SkyMed. If you include your phone number, he'll call you about SkyMed as well, to answer any 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.** Please tell them you're calling because you heard about them from Jeff Berger.

31. Got Other SkyMed Questions? Here's Where to Ask

If you have questions about SkyMed not answered above, email jeff@getskymed.com and Jeff will get back to you. Please also include your phone number and best time to call; he'll be in touch.

SkyMed Takes You Home® - what else matters?

32. Our New *Triple* 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. See below for how this works.

Second, for a five-year SkyMed Ultimate, non JMB members pay \$3495 in advance; JMB members pay only \$2495 through us for the family plan (or only \$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.* So... the #2 advantage of buying through us is low cost, no matter how you buy.

For contact info (answers to questions about SkyMed), see the last paragraph of the previous story.

Third: 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. The third benefit: a dream vacation. Email us after you're signed up through us and for a limited time SkyMed will give you a vacation for a small fraction of its usual cost. (Oyster Bay Beach Resort is one of their vacation sites.)

33. We're Giving Away Ten SXM Vacations... and Tons More

Here's a complete list of everything we're giving away as of now -- the list has grown since you last saw it:

Vacation prizes (almost all are eight days / seven nights):

- [Club Orient](#) Naturist Resort, Orient Beach (Must be taken May, 2016)
- [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](#)
- El Zafiro Boutique Hotel, Restaurant, and Bar, Simpson Bay (new)

Here are our newest items:

- Sunset Cruise for Two about the [Classic Schooner Passaat](#) (new)
- One-week car rental (Hyundai i10 or equivalent) from [Leisure Car Rental](#) (new)
- 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 Sushiiito
- 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
- NEW Dinner for two at The Palms Restaurant, Simpson Bay
- Massage from [Tricia Altenau of AIA Massage Therapies](#), the island's most sought-after massage therapist

To enter:

We'll draw the vacation winners live on the air on Island 92 radio on March 21. After we give away all 10 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 prize winner. 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 again.

Enter here:

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

Full rules are on that page.

34. 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*.

35. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: 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.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *2015-16 St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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