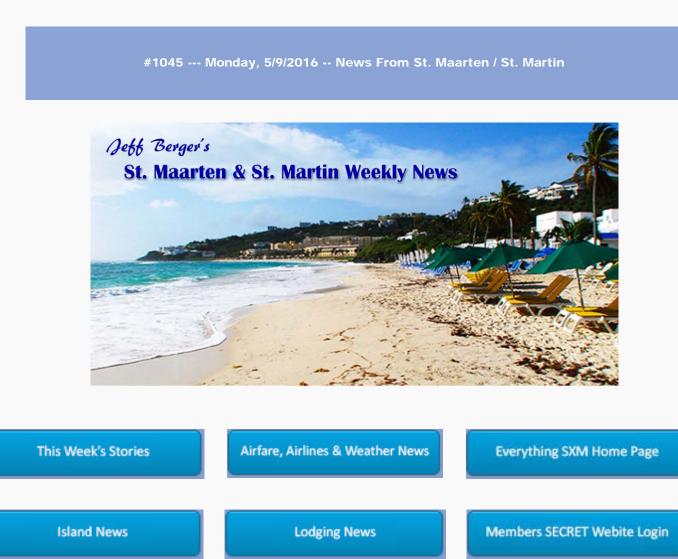
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St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source for Tourist-Oriented News & Information

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From: <u>www.jmbcommunications.com</u> Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book

to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a <u>send-only</u> email address. For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u> at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You are receiving <u>St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News</u> because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have over 260,000 readers around the world...

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



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, 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:

<u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml</u> 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?

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in.

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- -- American Airlines "AAdvantage" Customers Fuming About Program Changes
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- -- How We Vet Car Rental Companies For You
- -- For JMB Members Only: Reduced Cost Car Rentals
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- -- For JMB Members Only: Reduced Cost Accommodations
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- -- Best Beaches for Children
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- -- Best Beaches for Snorkeling

file:///C|/Users/jmbcomms/Documents/JMBSXMWEEKLYNEWS/SXM%20Weekly%20News/1045May92016.html[6/13/2016 5:56:02 PM]

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- -- SXM Web Cams
- -- Reminder: Current, Valid JMB Membership Card Required for All SXM Discounts
- -- Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
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- -- Warning: On Street Parking Near Alegria May Get You Towed
- -- Euro Strengthens a Bit; Super U Grocery Now at \$1.05/Euro
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- -- DHS Trying to Speed Security Checks: What You Can Do To Help
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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://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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u> for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 260+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 7/23/2016 8/6/2016 Week 30 & 31 Towers at Mullet Bay Spacious 1 bedroom unit on third floor. Two balconies overlooking lagoon and pool. Quiet and peaceful. Clean and very well-maintained unit with great maid service (Margaret is the best). \$500 per week Leslie 212 225 3120 latessitore@mac.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 6/18/2016 6/25/2016 25 Divi Little Bay Studio, Building B #209, 1st Floor, right on the beach in front of the best snorkeling on the island! King bed, also pull out sleeper (sleeps 4 total) Fridge, Stovetop, Convection Micro, Sm Appliances, Fully Equipped Kitchen, Whirlpool Tub & Shower, Air, Balcony w Table/Chairs, Flat Screen, Wi-Fi. One Mile Beach, Water Sports, Gated, plenty of parking, 3 Restaurants, 3 Pools, Spas, Activities, Family Friendly. Walking Distance to Phillipsburg, Fort Amsterdam access on the Property, Grocery, Deli. Buyer pays \$250 Transfer Fee to Divi. Tradable to other Divi's in Caribbean. 33 weeks remaining plus one bonus week.2015 the resort price for this unit/week is selling for \$13,000.00 \$3,000.00 Judy jekooyers10@gmail.com

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): <u>Click to access our recommended real estate agents</u>

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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:

Find us on Facebook

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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6. Expanded Information About Accommodations Is Now On Our SXM Site, Everythingsxm.com

7. Where To Find SXM Vacation Rentals

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

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

A. Where to Get Member Info: <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>

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

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 <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, 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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 260+ benefits... and more coming soon.

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. Airline Customer Satisfaction Is High, But...

Press reports say airline customer satisfaction is high -- welcome news.

The new-found levels of satisfaction come from fewer airplanes flying than before the recession; newer airplanes; better air traffic control procedures; and increasing numbers of point-to-point flights aboard non-legacy carriers like JetBlue, Southwest, and others.

But the news is not all good: see next story.

2. ... American Airlines "AAdvantage" Customers Fuming About Program Changes

The newly merged American Airlines has made substantial changes to its AAdvantage frequent flyer program.

Emails from disgruntled AA passengers say that it now takes many more miles to get the seat you want, which makes using AAdvantage primarily good for heavy-traveling road warriors.

Many travelers are now ditching airline affinity credit cards, realizing that the cards charge outrageously high interest rates. Many flyers are switching to debit cards and paying off airline credit cards.

The hunt for low fares is getting much tougher for less "frequent" frequent flyers.

3. Why Stay Home In Bad Weather When You Can Come Back to SXM And Enjoy Life?

Springtime weather in North America has been anything but desirable. It has been cold in the populous Northeast, wet throughout much of the country, and very stormy in central areas.

Meanwhile, despite a bit more rain than usual for springtime, St. Maarten has generally been hot and sunny since winter ended about a month and a half ago. Moving toward summer, weather is expected to be continued dry with the frequency of showers increasing a bit later in the summer.

Although summer is hot in St. Maarten, sweltering days of oppressive humidity and broiling sun are more likely in New York, Boston, Washington, Chicago, Detroit, etc. In St. Maarten, summer heat is largely mitigated by an ocean that begs you to come in and cool off -- and nearly constant tradewinds.

So if you don't like the spring weather at home, plan another trip to St. Maarten -- soon.

4. Travel Website "FlyTravelGo" About To Take a Trip...

For a while, we've recommended the <u>www.flighttravelgo.com</u> travel website, touting it as one of the simplest and easiest to use on the web.

Small companies offering access to booking engines online rely on the big guys to provide the underlying technology for bookings. We've generally been happy with our partner, one of the big guys (Orbitz), but we are not currently delighted with them because of reliability issues.

We are moving flytravelgo.com to another booking engine, which will increase its reliability. We'll let you know when this process is done; it may take a few weeks. We still urge you to try the site; if you encounter any of the reliability issues, we apologize in advance. We'll let you know when the transfer is complete. One thing is for sure: the site will remain one of the easiest to use, which has been our goal since the beginning.

If you have reservation made through FlyTravelGo, *make sure you have contact info for its Customer Service*, which is handled directly by folks from Orbitz. That info is on the FlyTravelGo site. We at JMB have no information about flights you book through FlyTravelGo.

5. Where to See Current Weather Information; Hurricane Preparation Advice

For current weather, go to <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> -- the SXM forecast is on our home page and on our Weather page; you can click those links for detailed forecasts. Our Weather page also includes constantly updated satellite images and radar loops for SXM and the entire Caribbean.

Early in May we added **Hurricane Preparation Advice** to our site, courtesy of Crown Weather. That page is here: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/weather/hurricane-preparedness-building-your-hurricane-kit.shtml</u>. Crown Weather is our go-to site for accurate, up-to-the-minute information about major storms including tropical storms and hurricanes. We relied on them for years. <u>Their subscriber-based service charges precious little and can give you critically important advance information regarding potential approaching storms</u>. For more about what crown weather does, look <u>here</u>.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. Expanded Accommodations Info Is Now On Our SXM Site,

Everythingsxm.com

We've been methodically upgrading our accommodations coverage on <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. The page originally included just timeshares for rent or for sale from our JMB Website Supporters members. Now, the page includes villas, private condos, and more — including real estate agents who we feel offer you the best opportunity to find exactly what you're looking for in real property on SXM.

Moreover, we recently posted a page which shows you the best small hotels on St. Maarten. Increasingly, a number of our readers seem to be attracted to smaller properties. Check out the page and let us know what you think. It's here: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/recommended-st-maarten-timeshare-resorts.shtml</u>

7. Where to Find SXM Vacation Rentals

If you're looking for timeshare rentals and sales, we continue to offer hundreds of both directly from their owners, on our site.

Many sites offer SXM rentals. Only paid JMB Website Supporters members can post ads on our site -- and we have an identity paper trail on them. That's important for buyer security.

If you want to get a vacation rental in SXM, see ours at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. If you want to rent out or sell a timeshare or other property you own on SXM, join JMB Website Supporters -- see the beginning of the Section 3, below, for membership details.

Join our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program today.

SECTION 3: Island

^{7a.} <u>How Would You Pay \$45,000</u> <u>In Cash, In Advance</u> To Fund a Medical Evacuation Jet Home When You Become Critically III or Injured While Away?

SkyMed Takes You Home®

If you're a SkyMed member, SkyMed Takes You Home for free. One phone call is all it takes.

If you're not a SkyMed member, you must find and pay for the medevac jet, fuel, flight crew, medical staffing, medical supplies, ambulances, fees, etc. -- which could easily top \$45,000 or more, often far more -- in cash, in advance, before anything even begins to happen.

If you're a SkyMed member, SkyMed Takes You Home® in an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet for exactly \$0 -- home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust. When you need SkyMed in a hurry, it's only a phone call away IF you're a SkyMed member.

So... get your SkyMed membership now, before you need it. See more at <u>http://www.getskymed.com</u>. Or call Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 (normal business hours, Eastern time) or email him at jeff@getskymed.com for answers to any SkyMed questions. (Please use the subject SkyMed Inquiry.)

SkyMed Membership is as little as about \$1.25/day.

Major discounts on all SkyMed multiyear memberships are available to our JMB Website Supporters members, who get more than 260 other SXM island discounts & benefits:

New JMB memberships:

One year is just \$59, longer durations are much less per year http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships:

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

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

8. How We Vet Car Rental Companies For You

Over the years, we've spoken with many SXM car-rental operators. Since we started *SXM Weekly News* more than 24 years ago, we've gathered your input on hundreds of St. Maarten businesses, so we know what's good and what isn't. Consequently, we've been able to partner with a number of the best SXM car-rental companies to bring special rates to our JMB Website Supporters members.

In this edition, you'll see several "For JMB Members Only" stories which tell you about great discounts for our JMB Website Supporters members only. Check them out -- they can save you lots of cash on your next SXM trip.

9. For JMB Members Only: Reduced-Cost Car Rentals

JMB Website Supporters members are entitled to steep discounts under regular pricing from a number of top car rental companies on the island. We include both small local companies and a global car rental provider. Discounts are as much as 15% per week.

For details, login to the secret website. Your username and password are required. If you're still not a member, look:

New JMB memberships:

One year is just \$59, longer durations are much less per year http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships:

Low-cost renewals -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the Membership Renewal Center

<u>JMB Membership Reinstatements</u>: Low-cost reinstatements http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

10. For JMB Members Only: Discounts at Dozens of Restaurants

Ever since we started JMB Website Supporters 14 years ago, we've offered discounts at a spectrum of restaurants from beach bars to gourmet French and Italian restaurants in Grand Case and elsewhere.

If you dine out in SXM, the discounts can mean big savings. In some cases, there's a percentage discount... In others there are free glasses or bottles of wine. Other offerings apply, too.

For details, login to the secret website. Your username and password are required. If you're still not a member, look:

New JMB memberships:

One year is just \$59, longer durations are much less per year http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships:

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JMB Membership Reinstatements:

Low-cost reinstatements http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

11. For JMB Members Only: Reduced Cost Accommodations

Reduced cost accommodations covers a huge spectrum of things. We offer discounts at some island hotels; villa discounts; or you can select from hundreds of timeshare condominiums available for rent or sale on our site, where there are no middleman fees and no one between you and the seller. Our site is <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. Rentals / sales can be posted by JMB members only.

For details, login to the secret website. Your username and password are required. If you're still not a member, look:

New JMB memberships:

One year is just \$59, longer durations are much less per year http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about sxm/paypal.shtml

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JMB Membership Reinstatements:

Low-cost reinstatements http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

12. For JMB Members Only: Reduced Cost Sailing Excursions

One of the favorite leisure activities of St. Maarten tourists is sailing excursions, which range from sunset sails on the lagoon to visits to nearby islands to even yacht rentals.

Our JMB Website Supporters members-only secret website gives JMB members reduced-cost access to many sailing excursions, either directly or through our partnership with the island's leading supplier of leisure activities.

For details, login to the secret website. Your username and password are required. If you're still not a member, look:

New JMB memberships:

One year is just \$59, longer durations are much less per year http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships:

Low-cost renewals -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the Membership Renewal Center

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

13. For JMB Members Only: Reduced Cost Activities (Hundreds of Them) & Shopping

Our exclusive partnership with St. Maarten Activities means that we can offer our JMB Website Supporters members literally hundreds of activities — all at discount prices.

Go to our members-only secret website and check out Activities in the Discounts Master Index. You'll find both the activities we offer directly from providers as well as discounts for hundreds of other activities provided by our partner. That's a lot of savings.

JMB also offers lots of shopping discounts -- in fact a whole section of a site is devoted to them. Jewelry, souvenirs, cigars, liquor, art, and tons more.

For details, login to the secret website. Your username and password are required. If you're still not a member, look:

<u>New JMB memberships</u>: One year is just \$59, longer durations are much less per year http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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JMB Membership Reinstatements: Low-cost reinstatements http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

14. Repeat: All Old JMB Discount Vouchers Now Void; About Our New Ones

All current JMB Website Supporters discount vouchers include the clearly printed admonition that they are valid only if accompanied by your current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card and a government-issued photo ID. *All prior vouchers without that admonition are now void, and any new vouchers presented with<u>out</u> your current, valid JMB Membership Card also are void.*

<u>JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits are for current, active JMB Website Supporters Members Only</u>. If someone hands you a JMB voucher and you're not a JMB member, don't even think of trying to use it: it's worthless unless you're a current member -- and attempting to use it regardless of that is fraud.

See the prior story to join, renew, or reinstate JMB.

JMB Membership Cards are always sent by email and are updated whenever you have a membership transaction affecting your Card's expiration date. *If you're renewed or joined in the last week or so, your new card will be coming in the next few days*.

Members: Always let Membership Services know if you change the email you have registered with us and if you change your physical address. We use that info for security purposes when processing membership-related transactions. You can always contact them fastest by email, support@jmbcommunications.com.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

<u>Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured</u> on HGTV.

15. Best Beaches for Children

For detailed information on all St. Martin beaches — including the best clothing optional beaches, best beaches for children, and much more, go to <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> and click the link **Beaches**. Everything you want is right there.

16. Best Beaches for Lunches

If you go to <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> and click Beaches, you'll find tons of information about practically all St. Maarten beaches. <u>We are about to add the following, regarding lunches</u>:

Not all St. Martin beaches have food available, and those that do vary widely. Some stand out for the quality of restaurants there and the convenience of using them.

St. Martin's best-known beach, **Orient beach**, offers many restaurants providing food at various prices. Some of them are in the new bar/restaurant buildings just before naturist Club Orient near the southern end of the beach. Others are inside Club Orient, and more are to the north on Orient beach.

Our favorites at Orient are at the Papagayo restaurant inside Club Orient, which has an extensive menu, and also the Perch bar near the northern end of Club Orient. Both restaurants serve quality food at reasonable prices.

Dawn beach is great because it's the home of **Mr. Busby's Beach bar**, in our opinion the best of all beach bars on the entire island. The food is great, the prices are reasonable, the inside ambience is excellent (dining in gazebos under the palms, on the beach), and most of the time beach boys are available to take your order for food or drink from Mr. Busby's. In addition, Mr. Busby's offers discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members. If you still haven't joined, see article 13.

17. Best Beaches for Snorkeling

Our opinion: Dawn Beach (especially near the Oyster Bay Beach Resort peninsula); Cupecoy Beach (on rare calm days); and the northern end of Baie Rouge. Anse Marcel is good as well, near the French Side dump, but don't go alone -- tricky currents and sharp coral.

18. Tropical Wave Saved: Sign The Petition

Tropical Wave Restaurant at Le Galion Beach, next to the hurricane-battered remains of the old Le Galion Hotel, has been spared from demolition.

A long time local favorite, Tropical Wave had been threatened with demolition in connection with the near complete renovation of the Le Galion beach property scheduled for this year. The government's proposal would have put the restaurant out of business, destroying a landmark used primarily by locals who were charged very low prices, making it extremely affordable.

Evidently the government heard the howls of protest because it recently said that Tropical Wave will not be destroyed and will be able to operate while most renovations are underway.

We'll keep you posted. In the meantime please help keep up the pressure by signing the petition -http://www.petitions24.com/support the tropical wave and save galion beach spirit

19. SXM Web Cams

Maho Beach (SXM Airport): http://mahobeachcam.com/

Orient Beach (Club Orient): http://www.cluborient.com/club-orient-beach-cam.html

Great Bay webcam: http://www.thevillasongreatbay.com/webcam.html

There are more but these are a great start. Enjoy....

20. Reminder: All Old JMB Discount Vouchers Now Void; About Our New Ones

All current JMB Website Supporters discount vouchers include the clearly printed admonition that they are valid only if accompanied by your current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card and a government-issued photo ID. *All prior vouchers without that admonition are now void, and any new vouchers presented without your current, valid JMB Membership Card also are void.*

<u>JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits are for current, active JMB Website Supporters Members *Only*. If someone hands you a JMB voucher and you're not a JMB member, don't even think of trying to use it: it's worthless unless you're a current member -- and attempting to use it regardless of that fact is fraud.</u>

See the prior story to join, renew, or reinstate JMB.

21. Reminder: Current, Valid JMB Membership Card Required for All SXM Discounts

Regardless of when your JMB membership expires, we've told our business partners in SXM that <u>only JMB members</u> with current, valid JMB Membership Cards are entitled to member benefits. Without your Card, you could be anyone; your unexpired card (and a current government-issued photo ID) are <u>required</u> to receive JMB benefits/discounts.

Cards are always sent by email and are updated whenever you have a membership transaction affecting your Card's expiration date. *If you're renewed or joined in the last week or so, your new card will be coming in the next few days*.

Members: Always let Membership Services know if you change the email you have registered with us and if you change your physical address. We use that info when processing membership-related transactions. You can always contact them fastest by email, <u>support@jmbcommunications.com</u>.

22. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 5/2016)

Here are constantly updated questions and answers about SkyMed, the folks who fly you home in 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 say in their fine print that they take you to "the nearest appropriate facility," *not* home like SkyMed. If you're in SXM, that means *SkyMed <u>competitors</u>* 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 low 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 -- which is why we recommend annual or multiyear memberships. *Why risk the hurdle of medical requalification?*)

Q. What other evacuation-related services do you offer besides the evacuation itself?

A. There are 18 other services, some of which you've never even thought about but all of which are important. You'll find them on our downloadable **SkyMed Benefits PDF** on our <u>SXM Weekly News PDF Archives</u> page.

Q. How fast are the evacuations?

A. That depends on a number of factors. First the patient must be medically stable and ready to fly. Even though emergency medical evacuations are aboard ICU-equivalent medevac jets, the patient's stable health during the trip is of paramount importance. He / she must be medically stable to take that trip. Although arrangements for the electronic transfer of medical records, reserving flight and medical crews and the jet itself, making hospital arrangements at the destination hospital, and setting up ambulances at both ends of trip must all be completed beforehand, nonetheless it generally takes only a matter of hours before you're in the plane on the way to hospitals and doctors you know and trust near home. Bottom line is that SkyMed does it as quickly as it can be done assuring the patient's health and safety during the medical evacuation and the flight home.

Q. Do they cancel me if I get really sick?

A. No, they don't. Once you're a member, as long as you continue to pay your membership fee your membership continues regardless of your health or age, when 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 in the US or Canada 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 in full, immediately. *Just remember that you must medically requalify every time you need a new short-term membership, which is why most of our members buy and renew annual or multiyear Ultimate SkyMed memberships instead of short-term.* Those memberships cover all pre-existing conditions in should short-term.

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), out of your home country (USA or Canada) 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 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 that SkyMed approves, they'll renew it every year upon on-time payment of your renewal fee. No physical exam is required regardless of your age or health if you've paid your membership renewal 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. There is no maximum. Apply away.

Q. I seldom travel now. Do you have short-term plans?

A, Yes, at about \$9/day per person or maximum \$18/day per family. 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. <u>Annual and multiyear plans are renewable without medical requalification, assuming they haven't lapsed. That's a key advantage over short-term plans.</u>

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, not policies) 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. *Ex-Pat and "Silver" memberships also are offered.*

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, assuming renewals are paid on time. 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. <u>Multiyear</u> <u>memberships give you more benefits than annual memberships but cost less when paid at inception</u>. They're quite a bargain.

Q. Is there a best time to buy?

A. Yes -- exactly like fire insurance, buy it before you need it! Why gamble? The peace of mind alone is worth every penny.

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

The basic annual 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 including Cuba. 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.

Got Other Questions?

If you have questions about SkyMed not answered above, email jeff@getskymed.com and Jeff will get back to you or phone him at 508-747-8281. Please also include your phone number and best time to call; he'll be in touch. *Please use the subject "SkyMed Inquiry" in your email.*

SkyMed Takes You Home®; What else matters?

For more, see <u>skymed.com/jmbspecial</u> (JMB members) or <u>www.getskymed.com</u> (non-JMB members) or email Jeff directly at <u>jeff@getskymed.com</u> 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. <u>All multiyear plans offer major discounts to JMB</u> <u>members</u>. Please tell them you're calling because you heard about them from Jeff Berger.

23. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Look: http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf

This is an Adobe Acrobat PDF Document. Your system most likely already has a PDF Reader (free) but if not you can get one here: <u>download Adobe Acrobat Reader</u>.

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

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*.

25. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

Now it will be updated weekly.

26. Restaurant of the Week: Lal's Curry in a Hurry, Indian Cuisine

Regardless of whether you like spicy food or bland, Lal's Curry in a Hurry in Simpson Bay is an ideal choice for a wide range of Indian cuisine.

A favorite of both locals and tourists for more than 20 years, Lal's serves outstanding food that is reasonably priced, and the restaurant has a great view of the causeway and Simpson Bay lagoon.

When Capt. Neil's Celine catamaran took a pub crawl many years ago with us aboard, Lal's was one of the stops. We loved it and have been going ever since. Our favorite is their chicken korma with basmati rice -- delicious. Most of the other people who go with us like spicier selections. You can get Lal's dishes as spicy as you want.

Visit Lal's soon: you won't be disappointed. Definitely tell Lal you're visiting at our suggestion.

Most of the restaurants listed below offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details or scroll below the restaurant list.

We'll cover another restaurant here next week.

Sill not a JMB member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see below the restaurants list.

See the end of this article for JMB Website Supporters membership info / signup links.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 2/8/16) IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 2/29/16) Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/22/16) SkipJack's SXM, http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/ (featured 3/7/16) 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 5/2/16) Domino's Pizza https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338 (featured 8/11/14) Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 4/18/16) Fusion Restaurant has now closed. 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 5/9/16) Mr. Busby's Beach Bar http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 2/19/16) Island Pizza, http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 1/25/16) Pineapple Pete, <u>www.pineapplepete.com</u> (featured 2/2/15) Papagayo, http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php (featured 5/4/15) 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 4/25/16) 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)

Join JMB Website Supporters today for hundreds of discounts across SXM:

Great pricing for every type of membership:

New memberships:

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

Renewal memberships:

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

Membership Reinstatements:

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

27. Remember The Rima Beachwear Superstore? It's Back for JMB Members

Only

For years, the single most popular beachwear and souvenir store on St. Maarten was Rima, in its big store on the pondfill, Philipsburg.

For family reasons, the owners have moved back to India but their website is still online offering their huge selection of products to tourists at reasonable prices. There is no retail Rima store in St. Maarten, only their wholesale distributorship.

For JMB Website Supporters members only, the great news is that Rima offers a huge discount on online orders — well over 30%.

To take advantage of this, login to the secret website using your assigned username and password as a JMB member. You'll find Rima in the shopping listings (in the Discounts Master Index); use the info you'll find there to buy on the Rima website and receive your huge JMB discount.

If you're still not a JMB member, join today and start enjoying all the advantages of membership. See previous story.

28. Warning: On Street Parking Near Alegria May Get You Towed

We've been hearing reports lately that people who've parked on the street near Alegria Resort have been towed, despite there being no "no parking" signs or tow warnings.

If you want to park somewhere near Maho beach, we suggest you use the paid parking under Royal Islander La Terrace across Airport Road. We do not recommend parking in the lot at Alegria which appears to be charging again.

29. Euro Strengthens; Super U Grocery Now at \$1.05/Euro

On Saturday morning, when this article was written, it cost \$1.14 to buy one euro, reflecting a weaker dollar against the euro and increasing the cost of goods at some locations on the French side. The Super U market in Marigot, which has charged euros at par with dollars for some time, is now charging \$1.05 per euro. They are the lowest cost market on the island so this shouldn't make much difference. A number of restaurants on the French side continue to offer dollars and euros at par.

30. Investigation Launched Into Monkey Population

Their numbers haven't dropped, we take it, despite the recent drought. Look: <u>http://www.todaysxm.com/research-into-st-maarten-monkey-population/</u>

31. Watch Out for Nesting Sea Turtles

Nesting season has begun for endangered large sea turtles: http://www.todaysxm.com/sea-turtle-nesting-season-begins-2/

32. Gold Chain Snatchings Up

Although a recent arrest and conviction should help, nonetheless the snatching of thick gold chains from around people's necks occasionally happens in lots of places including St. Maarten. As we've said before, leave heavy gold chains home when visiting metropolitan areas in the US or anyplace in the Caribbean.

33. Take Trip Advisor with a Grain of Salt

Although Trip Advisor does its best to keep its listings honest, nonetheless some unscrupulous people attempt to manipulate it to promote their own businesses or to denigrate businesses owned by competitors.

All businesses have off days. Chefs don't always prepare everything perfectly, regardless of how many awards they win or how many accolades they've earned. There have been newspaper articles published recently about businesses that wanted to have bad ratings removed from trip advisor or that wanted their businesses removed altogether. Generally, they were unsuccessful. The fact is that hundreds of millions of reviews are on trip advisor and the law of averages says that some percentage of them are likely to be unreliable. Trip advisor is a very good facility — just take it with a grain of salt.

34. DHS Trying to Speed Security Checks: What You Can Do To Help

The US Department of Homeland Security is beefing up staff at airports across the country to help process the security requirements of an expected surge in summer travelers. As we recommended before, we suggest you apply for the Global Entry program which will speed you through security when you depart through US airports and when you arrive back in the US from overseas. Membership in Global Entry also includes membership in Pre-check, which speeds your processing domestically.

Google Global Entry for more information.

35. Passport Renewal Heads Up

The US State Department expects there to be a surge in passport renewals this year, since the requirement for passports for travel to the Caribbean (and elsewhere) was instituted about 10 years ago.

So far, as we've reported, processing is quick: it took three weeks for us to renew our passports which were submitted at the end of March and approved quickly thereafter. We have Global Entry but that apparently didn't make much difference since others who don't have it were approved equally fast when renewing.

If your passport is due for renewal this year we urge you to submit it for renewal as quickly as possible since this fast service may not last.

36. About Your Safety During Summer / Low Season

For whatever reason, crime in the Caribbean seems to spike a bit during summer and fall. For advice on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime, please look here: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/sxm_news/crime-in-st-maarten-st-martin.shtml

37. Restaurant Comings & Goings

Elisa Cohen's Shanghai Brasserie at Porto Cupecoy has closed. Elisa is now working at Bamboo (formerly Bamboo Bernie's) in Maho.

The venerable Fusion restaurant in Simpson Bay also has closed.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

38. Allegedly Slimy Water at Alegria May Be An Ideal Breeding Ground for

Mosquitoes

The <u>Saint Martin News Network</u> on Saturday ran a story about the pool at Alegria Resort. The photo with their story showed slimy green water and alleged it to be a "perfect" breeding ground for mosquitoes capable of carrying the Zika virus.

Health Minister Emil Lee went to the resort on Sunday and soon after the pool was drained and then refilled. An *SXM Weekly News* contributor told us the pool water already appears to be turning green again.

We'll keep you posted.

39. BULLETIN: French Side Hospital Hit By Fire

Details: https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/57263-hospital-staff-praised-for-quick-reaction

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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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml</u> 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>. Your username and password are required.

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

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

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi</u> You **CAN** <u>NOT</u> 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 *2016 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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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>. 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 .

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