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****Thank You To American Veterans****
#1048 --- Monday, 5/30/2016 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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

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

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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.
For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#)
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 St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have 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:

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

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

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

- **Hurricane Season "Begins" With a Bang**
- **New "MyTSA" App Displays Airport Security Delays in Real Time**
- **Top Three Resorts After Renovations: Simpson Bay Resort, L'Esplanade, Ocean Point**
- **SkyMed On Sale for Everyone**
- **It's JMB's Birthday Sale -- But The Presents are All Yours (Ends Soon)**
- **GEBE Driving SXM Residents Crazy (Again)**
- **Cugini Continues Sam Runza's Delicious Culinary Traditions**
- **Restaurant of the Week: Island Pizza**
- **Repeat: A Series of Travel Disasters in SXM**
- **Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway**
- **Something Very Special for Veterans, One Week Only**
- **Parking Garage Shooting Injures Three**

24 news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

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

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 260+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

Shown only in live, emailed version.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Shown only in live, emailed version.

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.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 260+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

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

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- 7. Top Three Resorts After Renovations: Simpson Bay Resort, L'Esplanade, Ocean Point
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Section Four: For Members Only (Revised 12/31/14)

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

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

How To Get a **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 260+ benefits... and more coming soon.

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Hurricane Season "Begins" With a Bang

Although technically hurricane season doesn't begin until this Wednesday, June 1, 2016, when this article was written it appeared that the season would start early and with a bang: tropical storm Bonnie formed and was forecast to affect much of the US east coast with foul holiday weather.

Weather authorities also expressed concern that a second storm could form later during June and possibly affect the central or western US Gulf coast.

See other weather-related stories in this section to keep abreast of hurricane information throughout hurricane season, which officially starts June 1 and ends November 30.

2. New "MyTSA" App Displays Airport Security Delays in Real Time

Although the Transportation Security Administration, TSA, is working toward alleviating security delays in the nation's airports, it has already produced an app which reports the extent of delays at most airports. The app is supposed to be available for both Android and Apple phones.

Although the app is currently updated with information from passengers going through TSA checkpoints, the TSA itself is supposed to update it starting soon.

One major step that the TSA says it will take to alleviate the security delays is to elevate part-time security screeners to full-time status.

If you're traveling in the short term, however, understand that it will take a while for changes to take effect

3. Get SkyMed Travel Club Membership on Us (Usually \$99/year)

We're bringing back Open Enrollment in the low fare SkyMed Travel Club for one month only... June. Here goes:

JMB Website Supporters now gives you access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on packages not just to the Caribbean, but worldwide.

Retail travel sites — the ones whose names you know very well — are heavily regulated. But private travel clubs like this, which normally charge members prices for membership/admission, are regulated differently and consequently, can offer much better pricing.

The organization providing these travel benefits has been traveling under the radar for 25 years and is only now making its travel reservations prowess publicly known. It's SkyMed Travel Club and it is entirely separate from the SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service we've been recommending to you since shortly after the millennium.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have been testing it for the past few weeks and have found the pricing to be extraordinary — even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a tourism phenomenon throughout Europe and are quickly gaining popularity here in the US.

And normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, and during a brief introductory period for everyone else, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Exclusively through us, you get access to a world-class global ticketing mechanism without paying one cent to get in the door.

This is a new benefit for JMB members. During this Open Enrollment, everyone can join by going to

www.SkyMedtravelclub.com, clicking the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and providing the requested information. It's very important to complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — entering that code is what ensures that you pay nothing to be a member of the SkyMed Travel Club. If you fail to enter that code, you will not gain free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing.

Do join — you will not be disappointed once you've booked travel through them.

4. Get Current SXM Weather

Current St. Maarten weather is always available from the weather page of our website. Just go to the masthead of www.everythingSXM.com and click Weather for current weather information, satellite loops, radar, and hurricane information.

See the next article.

5. Where to Find Real-Time Hurricane Satellite Images, Watches, Warnings, & More

Our go-to source for accurate and dependable hurricane information related to St. Maarten and both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the US, as well as the Caribbean, has long been www.crownweather.com, headed by Rob Lightbown. This excellent site has an enormous amount of weather information updated pretty much around the clock. In fact, when storms are threatening, it *is* updated around-the-clock.

The site contains watches, warnings, and numerous satellite images, animated radar loops, hurricane forecast models, and much more. The cost per year is tiny and the value is enormous, especially if you live in an area vulnerable to hurricane strikes. We urge you to check it out.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. Renovations Making a Difference at Many Resorts

Last week, we reviewed several St. Maarten resorts regarding renovations. The fact is that renovations have been underway for several years at many SXM resorts, and they are making a significant difference to their attractiveness. Consequently, the next article reviews our sense of some of the best larger resorts on the island based on recent renovations there.

7. Top Three Resorts After Renovations: Simpson Bay Resort, L'Esplanade, Ocean Point

We've frequently reviewed many resorts on SXM — resorts of all kinds and sizes.

As we noted above, renovations make a big difference in resort attractiveness. Three resorts have undergone remarkable transformations recently thanks to heavy renovations. Here are our reviews of those resorts:

First, Simpson Bay Resort. Probably no resort in the history of the island has undergone a more total metamorphosis than Simpson Bay, formerly Pelican Resort. Previously long in the tooth and long ignored by its original developer, the resort was in critical need of major overhauls. Owner Royal Resorts Caribbean decided it was time, and they began the renovations a few years ago. The last building to be renovated, Bougainvillea, is undergoing the process now. It'll finish this fall.

The renovations are floor to ceiling to walls and everything in between. They are the most total renovations possible

without tearing down the whole building. Indeed, the new rooms we visited at Simpson Bay in both 2015 and 2016 reminded us of the best quality rooms we stayed in at Scottsdale, Arizona, at a recent conference. They are top-drawer. Without reservation, we certainly recommend Simpson Bay as a result of their amazing renovations.

L'Esplanade Resort in Grand Case is a beautiful contemporary property with high-end accommodations all of which overlook beautiful Grand Case Bay. Outfitted with every kind of ambience you could possibly want, this is a beautiful, exquisitely well run and meticulously cared for property. Not only does it have our highest recommendation, but also it was a recipient of our 2016 and 2015 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence.

Ocean Point Resort, a new high-end facility within the Sonesta Maho complex, overlooks the Caribbean from the island's West coast. Nothing has been spared to give it top amenities for which it is being nationally and internationally recognized. Highly recommended. We saw this property too late for our 2016 Award of Excellence, but keep an eye on it for 2017. Now open.

8. Reminder: Discounted Hotel Stays for You from JMB

One of the most popular benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership is discounted hotel stays on the island. See the secret website for details on available discounted accommodations. If you're still not a JMB member, see article 10 — our 26th anniversary sale is now underway.

Also see the next story.

SECTION 3: Island

9. SkyMed Is Finally On Sale for Everybody...

If you're not a JMB member and would like to join SkyMed, we have a deal for you...

a) Buy an annual family SkyMed membership at \$499 -- it covers you for a full year. You must buy it from us at www.getskymed.com.

b) After you receive your membership materials from SkyMed, forward your SkyMed "welcome" email to us at support@jmbcommunications.com plus your street address and home phone number. We'll give you a one-year JMB membership on us (it will take a few days). *Applies only to nonmembers of both JMB and SkyMed. Offer expires June 30, 2016.*

c) You'll then be able to upgrade your annual SkyMed membership to a three- or five-year Ultimate membership, with global coverage, at our heavily discounted JMB members-only pricing. To learn more, email jeff@getskymed.com and include your phone number; we'll set up a brief phone call and take your application by phone if that's what you'd like to do. We'll be happy to answer your SkyMed questions.

Annual SkyMed memberships cover you throughout the "SkyMed Universe" with SkyMed "Takes You Home" emergency medical evacuation services. The "Universe" includes the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. You can add specialized coverage for the rest of the world for \$100/year but it's better to upgrade to a SkyMed Ultimate which includes global services and quite a bit more for the same price, for JMB members only. Jeff will be happy to explain SkyMed or SkyMed Ultimate features and benefits. (Also see the Q&A later in this issue.)

For more on JMB memberships, look below. **A sale is currently underway offering exceptional pricing on new, renewal, and reinstated JMB Website Supporters memberships.**

New JMB memberships -- One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available)
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships -- **Low-cost renewals -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**
1 year \$34; 3 years \$64; 7 years \$124
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements**
1 year \$35; 5 years \$95; 7 years \$139 (our best offer)

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

10. It's JMB's Birthday Sale -- But The Presents Are All Yours (**Ends Soon**)

About the Sale:

JMB Communications turns 26 this Thursday, June 2. Our 26th Birthday Sale - our biggest sale of the year -- gives you extraordinary sale prices on new JMB memberships, renewals, and membership reinstatements.

What You Get:

About 264 discounts & benefits bring you low pricing on virtually everything you do on SXM -- and many more discounts are coming. There are loads of savings no matter how long or short your vacation is. What's more, the discounts and benefits are good for a full 12 months.

New JMB memberships -- One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available)

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

Renewal JMB memberships -- **Low-cost renewals -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**

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JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements**

1 year \$35; 5 years \$95; 7 years \$139 (our best offer)

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

Ends Soon, Join or Renew / Reinstate Today

About our Latest SXM Vacation Giveaway: We're putting the finishing touches on our biggest giveaway ever, to celebrate us surpassing five million visits to our site, www.everythingsxm.com, next year. It should happen somewhere between March and May of 2017 but [entries are now open](#). Click [entries are now open](#) to enter.

The only requirements to become a finalist are: 1) you subscribe to *SXM Weekly News*; and 2) you enter the giveaway. But -- we're also going to pick two people from among those who buy new, renewal, or reinstatement memberships in our birthday sale, going on now; those two people will be among our 70 finalists. **Click one of the membership sale links above. Once the sale ends, we'll pick two names from among all sale membership buyers and those two names will become finalists.***

[Enter here.](#)

The Fine Print:

*No purchase necessary. Complete rules are on the online entry form which you must complete to be eligible to win. To become a finalist without making a purchase from JMB, send a picture postcard to 2017 Giveaway Finalist, c/o JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. On the card you must print your name, date of birth (you must be over age 21), email address (print it), daytime phone number (clearly!), street address, city, state / province, country, and postal code. And you must write "I want to be a finalist." We will not notify people selected to be finalists; you must read all issues of *SXM Weekly News* to see when the drawing is. We will phone all winners during the drawing. If you don't answer, you lose. If you do answer, you win. Good luck to all entrants.

11. GEBE Driving SXM Residents Crazy (Again)

We don't know why, but GEBE -- the Dutch Sides electric and water company -- seems to have more trouble providing electricity during low season, which is now. Last week, new problems over much of the island -- and local residents were not the least bit happy.

Tourists seldom complain about power outages simply because most hotels and timeshares keep things humming with their own generators. Power outages are scarcely even noticed, unless they occur when tourists are shopping or

dining.

GEBE has said it has new generating equipment on order, but we've heard that before and the problems seem to persist.

We'll keep you posted.

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

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

12. Cugini Continues Sam Runza's Delicious Culinary Traditions

For years, Sam Runza and Tony Piscione, cousins ("cugini" in Italian), founded and ran the Cugini restaurant in Marigot. A couple of years ago, the restaurant relocated to Simpson Bay and chief honcho Sam was elated.

The restaurant was an immediate smash, receiving broad-based accolades.

A year ago last March, Sam went to Toronto for medical care after cancer was discovered during a routine physical on the island. Despite intense treatment there, Sam returned to St. Maarten during this past high season basically to say goodbye, understanding that his prognosis was terminal.

Tony Piscione, Sam's cousin and business partner, himself an accomplished chef, is continuing to operate the restaurant using Sam's authentic recipes carried out by experienced Italian chefs. The food religiously adheres to those recipes and continues to have a very loyal following.

The food is great, the service is excellent, and you will sense the presence of Sam as you enjoy his legacy during your next visit. As always, we highly recommend it.

Cugini received our Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence for 2015 and 2016.

13. Mysterious Garage Being Erected at Kim Sha Beach

A parking garage is under construction on Kim Sha beach south of Royal Palm Beach Resort. Since parking near the beach is free, we have no idea why a garage would be built there. Could it be that there is finally some progress on the long-discussed American Clinic? If that were the case, a garage would make great sense since beach parking could become challenging.

We've long been proponents of the proposed clinic, which would promote medical tourism on the island and provide long needed high-end medical and surgical services to residents and tourists.

However, since the facility would be unlikely to accept US or Canadian health insurance, Americans and Canadians suffering critical illnesses or injuries will continue to require emergency medical evacuation back to the US or Canada where their health insurance remains in force. See stories about SkyMed later in this issue; it's the top medevac company.

14. Repeat: A Series of Travel Disasters in SXM

Not every trip to SXM winds up the relaxing event you'd expect.

A recent Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. *Flight cost to the patient: \$0.*

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. *Flight cost to the patient: \$0.*

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cole Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. *Flight cost to the patient: \$0.*

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. *Flight cost to the patient: \$0.*

A man suffered severe respiratory failure and lapsed into a coma on the island. He too was airlifted and returned to Texas where he recovered. *Flight cost to the patient: \$0.*

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in just about all these cases. SkyMed took its members home in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger today at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian expat living in SXM.

Anything can happen. Do it today. To learn more, visit www.getskymed.com. *JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see story 9.*

15. Restaurant of the Week: Island Pizza

There are lots of places on St. Maarten where you can buy great pizza. One of them — and only one — uses authentic old country recipes and the freshest of ingredients to create traditional thin crust pizza that is the most delicious Italian treat you can imagine.

Ingredients are sourced locally or internationally -- wherever the best-quality, freshest ingredients can be sourced. They're blended with seasoned expertise according to old world recipes.

The results speak for themselves: delicious custom-crafted thin-crust pizzas that give you that rarely found taste that lingers in your memory.

Island Pizza is located directly in front of Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and Daniel's by the Sea restaurant in the culinary village along Emerald Merit road in Dawn beach/oyster pond on the Dutch side. We think it is unmatched on the island and we urge you to try it. You can order it either directly at the window or as part of a larger meal inside the main restaurant.

In any case make a point to try it on your next island visit — we promise you won't be disappointed.

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 5/16/16)
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 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 5/30/16)
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (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; sale now underway.

New JMB memberships -- One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available)
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships -- **Low-cost renewals -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**
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JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements**
1 year \$35; 5 years \$95; 7 years \$139 (our best offer)
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

16. 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 only JMB members 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 required 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, support@jmbcommunications.com.

17. Where to Get Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 5/2/16)

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 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 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 [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#) 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 full after only 90 days. More on that is below.

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. Annual and multiyear plans are renewable without medical requalification, assuming they haven't lapsed. That's a key advantage over short-term plans.

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. **Multiyear memberships give you more benefits than annual memberships but cost less when paid at inception. 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 skymed.com/jmbspecial (JMB members) or www.getskymed.com (non-JMB members) or email Jeff 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.

18. 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: [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

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

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*.

20. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

Need a Great Website or Other Marketing Services?

Use [JMB Communications](#), the company behind Everything SXM.

21. Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway

A complete list of all prizes will appear here soon — but you can enter now, if you are a direct (not pass-along) subscriber to *SXM Weekly News*... Click the link to enter now:

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

Entries from pass-along subscribers will be printed on rice paper and fed to goats. Don't let the island's goats get any fatter: subscribe directly now by clicking "Free Newsletters" at www.everythingsxm.com. *Only direct subscribers are eligible to win.*

22. Please Turn Off The Tree Frogs...

Tree frogs are small — roughly the size of your average adult male's thumbnail. But they make up for their diminutive size with an overly loud peep to attract members of the opposite sex.

Perhaps the greatest number of them is found on the grounds of Maho at night in the winter, where hundreds seem to be singing. You can also hear some of them singing from outside open air restaurants. You almost never see them, but they're usually on shrubbery bordering restaurants.

In rare cases, their strident peeping can be annoying to people who don't understand it. We were visiting a very good seafood restaurant in Dawn beach last winter when the table next to us asked for the fan to be turned down, thinking the peeping was from the fan. When they heard it was tree frogs outside the restaurant, they left, abandoning what would have been one of the finest meals of their vacation.

This past week, it happened at a fine restaurant in Simpson Bay where an eclectic menu serves sway. It was a bit difficult, we're sure, for the owner to remain calm when a visitor who knew the noise was from tree frogs asked the owner to "turn them off". The owner called us and said, "what, now they have switches I should find so I could turn them off, each one of them sitting outside the restaurant? Where are the switches? Will they stay still long enough so I could turn them all off?"

Enjoy your meal. Ignore the frogs. You're in the Caribbean, mon.

23. Something Very Special for Veterans, One Week Only

Memorial Day presents a special opportunity for the rest of us to recognize the contribution that both our active and retired military make to our safety and well-being every minute of every hour of every day.

Nothing any of us can do adequately thanks these heroes for their tireless service. But with this offer, we'll try.

From now through June 5, 2016, we invite current and retired US military servicemen and women to join, reinstate, or renew their JMB memberships for twenty dollars per year, maximum seven years. That is the lowest one-year price we've offered in many, many years.

To join, renew, or reinstate at this rate, go to www.PayPal.com and send money to Jeff@JMBcommunications.com. You must include your phone number to participate and *you must also fax us your military service card with your serial number obliterated for security*. Fax it to JMB Communications at 508-749-7898. Specify in the fax that you are joining us for X number of years, but do join through PayPal. This offer must expire June 5, 2016.

It's possible that some long-term Birthday Sale prices for JMB memberships may be slightly lower than this twenty dollars per year rate — if so, we want you to take the lowest rate you can find.

If you have any questions, please contact Membership Services at support@JMBcommunications.com.

24. Parking Garage Shooting Injures Three

Dutch Side police confirmed to us Sunday evening that two people were seriously injured in a shooting incident Sunday morning on the second floor of the parking garage at the Westin Hotel in dawn beach. We do not believe either person was a guest or employee at the resort. A third person jumped out of the garage and fractured his leg when landing in the garden below.

The shooting was first reported by an island news organization. There are no further details available other than that police are continuing to investigate. We'll be following this up for you.

The Westin is a gated resort monitored by around-the-clock security. We're sure it is conducting its own internal audit to find out how these people entered the property and to prevent any such incursion from happening again.

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. Your username and password are required.

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 *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, <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 .

To see the JMB Communications Privacy Policy, visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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