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#1049 --- Monday, 6/6/2016 -- 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.

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.

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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- [An Update on Orient Beach & Club Orient](#)
- [SXM Summer With Kids](#)
- [Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway](#)

[30](#) news stories this week

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Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Shown only in live emailed copies.

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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29. Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway
30. A Word to American & Canadian ExPats Living in SXM

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. Long-Time JMB Member Judy K's Experience With SkyMed Travel Club

Long-time JMB Website Supporters member Judy K. joined the SkyMed Travel Club at our urging through *Weekly News*. She just returned from her trip and here's her report:

"Fall of 2015 I contacted John at SkyMed Travel from my membership at JMB Communications website "Everything St. Maarten." Immediately I knew I liked John. He set me straight on some ideas I had in mind that were way off course. He suggested instead of island hopping in Greece that we try a specific cruise the included the islands we wanted to see and fit our budget. Making the arrangements was easy and fun. Whenever I had some questions John was right there with answers. He also gave wonderful recommendations on our trip to Scotland, suggestions where to stay and where not to, what to see and where to focus our time. Car rental suggestion was awesome, and even when we changed it three times he was so nice and helpful. The cruise was fantastic and perfect.

"I will make sure I am always in contact with [SkyMed Travel] / John about our travel because he is the best I have ever worked with for travel info and great deals. I wish I had started with John, it would have saved me a LOT of money and I would not have made costly mistakes on the internet trying to get inexpensive flights. I highly recommend John at SkyMed travel. Don't mess around with inferior companies. This one is personal and very, very good. Thank you John."

Jeff Comments: Membership in SkyMed Travel Club is usually \$99/year but free to JMB Website Supporters and now, for a brief time, free to all *SXM Weekly News* readers. See next story: it's worth doing; ask Judy.

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

It's back: Open Enrollment in the low fare SkyMed Travel Club is back 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 open enrollment 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.

3. Current SXM Weather - Hurricane Outlook

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.

Although forecasters say this hurricane season will be average, so far it's showing signs of being above average. On Sunday, when the final edition of this newsletter was being emailed, it appeared that tropical storm Colin was about to form. To have a C named storm this early in June hints that Mother Nature may have more in store for us this hurricane season than we might expect.

4. 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.

5. Airlines Complaining About Lack of Promotion by SXM

For years, airlines have been complaining that St. Maarten provides inadequate promotion for the destination, leaving airlines fending for themselves to sell seats to a destination that's all but invisible in the media.

We've always said that St. Maarten is virtually invisible to American tourists especially compared to competitors like Aruba, which spends over \$20 million annually in promotion. By contrast, St. Maarten spends about *nothing*.

The French side really isn't in the game because their airport is incapable of accommodating large international jets that use SXM "Princess Juliana" airport.

JetBlue, for example, had hoped for help from the Dutch Side government in developing its service between San Juan and SXM, which it had projected upon launching would require three 100-seat jet round trips per day; that service has been terminated due to lack of demand.

Although Panamanian carrier COPA airlines provides a connection alternative to St. Maarten from many cities in the United States, it is now in danger of leaving the island because of lack of demand due, it says, to lack of promotion by the Dutch Side government.

Spirit airlines may hang in — then again it might not. It isn't jubilant about its status either.

Cuba is on the verge of becoming an additional problem, but the island must find a way to devote serious money to promotion — including substantial seasonal television advertising — or it will wind up being trampled in the stampede of people going to Cuba *and* Aruba simply because they did a far better job of promotion.

Right now, Cuba doesn't even need promotion. But SXM absolutely needs it unless it wants to see some airlines fly away permanently.

That kind of adverse noise also affects other carriers considering expansion to SXM, like lowfare leader Southwest. There is still no news of when they will come to SXM....

The island has real work to do.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Finally Getting Their Day in Court

There are two cases coming up shortly involving Caravanserai timeshare owners; the first is this week. We'll be watching this and will report on it through our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and in a bulletin to our JMB Website Supporters members should a definitive decision be handed down during the week. Stay tuned.

7. At Alegria, Misery Continues: Who's Responsible for this Mess?

Ever since he bought Caravanserai resort, told timeshare owners that their ownership was null and void, and refused to compensate them for it, Ray Sidhom has been one of the least popular people on St. Maarten. He has been reviled in posts by timeshare owners, ordinary citizens, and in newspaper editorials, and has been criticized by government officials although those same officials refused to do anything to help agitated timeshare owners.

Then there is the matter of all the court cases. One reliable St. Martin blogger recently posted this list:

"Alegria Vs Timeshare owners (No. 4 Next week. SMS Lawyers. Curacao showing up already.)
Algeria Vs Momo (No. 2 Soon)
Alegria Vs C LOUNGE (No. 5 Coming Soon.)
ALEGRIA VS DREAM POOL BAR (No. 4 COMING SOON)
ALEGRIA VS HOMEOWNERS PRIVATE A BUILDING (Oh Boy>> Just startin')
ALEGRIA VS CASINO OWNER (WAY TO MANY TO MENTION)
Government vs Alegria>> Oh None . We ain't got one!"

Perhaps if he were less litigious and more oriented toward customer service and customer satisfaction Mr. Sidhom would find himself with an occupied and profitable resort.

Someone who stayed there recently reported to us that the pools had green scum on the water (which was reported to the government at the time) -- and its estimated occupancy was a tiny handful of people, a majority of whom appeared to the blasting loud radios and drying laundry on hotel room railings.

8. From Oyster Bay Beach Resort, Some Good News

This is from Ricardo Perez, chief honcho at Oyster Bay Beach Resort:

The St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association has launched a GoFundMe account to support expenses of the St. Maarten/St. Martin Culinary Team 2016 as they prepare to compete in the *Taste of the Caribbean* Culinary Competition to be held this week in Miami. The link: <https://www.gofundme.com/SXMCulinaryTeam>

The team consists of Team Captain Dino Jagtiani, main chefs David Cudicio - Dreams Restaurant FWI, Pieter Holstein - Food Collective Rum&Peas (coming to Simpson Bay), Pastry Chef Ronald Stephane - Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort & Casino, Junior Chef Suzireia Adoptie - NIPA Institute and co-captain Bart Peut - Sundial School, who will cook together for for the first time.

Taste of the Caribbean is a prestigious event involving teams from across the Caribbean that compete for the coveted titles of Culinary Team of the Year, Caribbean Chef of the Year, Caribbean Junior Chef of the Year, Caribbean Pastry Chef of the Year, Caribbean Bartender of the Year, and Apprentice of the Year. Main sponsors are SMTA, Sonesta Great Bay, PDG, Divi Resorts, Antillean Liquors, Golf Association, and Dreams Restaurant for their contributions towards the team, practice sessions, and fund-raising/practice dinners.

We'll publish the results in *SXM Weekly News*.

9. So You Want to Build An SXM Resort? Here's Where To Do It

So it will set you back several million; you can't take it with you. Go: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNxszaqjcao>

Great spot for a hotel, casino, or both. Just reduced from \$15-million to an easy-peasy \$7.5-million. Contact our friends at Island Real Estate Team for more. Tell them Jeff Berger referred you:

<http://www.ireteam.com/listing/hotel-casino-beachfront-land/>

10. Time To Make Summer, Fall, and Winter SXM Reservations Is Now

Summer is quiet so far -- which means unspoiled beaches, no crowds at restaurants (almost all are open as always through Summer) and lower fares and hotel and car rental rates. For much more see our site, www.everythingsxm.com where you'll find 260+ island discounts and hundreds of condos for rent across the island.

11. Major Resort Development News in Anguilla

We reported a couple of weeks ago that a new Four Seasons was coming to the Caribbean but that it had already discounted SXM as its location. (SXM badly needs to stop losing opportunities to land upscale resorts; one of its issues is that people buying used timeshares at cut rates and most cruise ship passengers don't have the high demographics to support all the island's amazing jewelry stores and fine dining restaurants....)

Both a Four Seasons and a new Megayacht Marina (in a new harbor) are coming to Anguilla. That may draw some upscale travelers next door to Anguilla and it may also draw some megayachts which may be tiring a bit of their now-crowded (but very good) accommodations in SXM.

SECTION 3: Island

12. SkyMed Is Finally On Sale for Everybody... Get It Before You Need It

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 you like. 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>

13. **FINAL WEEK** -- JMB Birthday Sale Offers Low Prices on 260+ SXM Discounts

About the Sale:

JMB Communications turned 26 on 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. But it's now in its final week...

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:**
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>

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.

14. An Update on Orient Beach & Club Orient

We've been an informal part of an Orient Beach users group for a few years. Here's "Mike's" report:

1. New menu at Papagayo -- beer can burger is really good.
2. Our room has satellite TV -- not sure how many others have it -- if any.
3. New sign on the beach [replaced one recently blown away -Ed.]
4. Wine and cheese party is on Tuesday (might not have changed)
5. A lot less beach near the Perch and also north of Papagayo.. Only one row of chairs from the Perch south for about halfway to Papagayo. We are all packed together into our happy beach family. [Erosion has been an issue which used to be seasonal, but last winter there seemed to be less sand most of the time.-Ed.]
6. A lot of the rooms have the new paint scheme, and even a granite touch-up at one.

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.](#)

15. Restaurant of the Week: Toppers

Toppers never changes, and that's a good thing. "Topper" Daboul makes sure his Simpson Bay Bar / Restaurant (on Welfare Road at Kim Sha Beach), open for lunch and dinner every day, serves outstanding home-cooked food at astonishingly reasonable prices. Portions are generous, service is excellent, and neither ever varies. He also operates Topper's by the Sea at Flamingo Resort.

Topper's brisket and his meatloaf are standouts, and his lobster is among the best on the island. He also has great salads (we like mango chicken), homemade hummus, and tons more -- it's a big menu that satisfies every appetite.

What more could you ask? Oh yah, TVs at the bar cover major sporting events -- like the NBA finals. Go. You will not be disappointed.

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 6/6/16)
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:**
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/reinststate/index.shtml>

16. SXM Summer With Kids / Grandkids: Stock Up on Great Ice Cream

With all-natural ingredients, Etna Ice Cream is unimaginably creamy and delicious. It's sold at all major supermarkets across the island. If you haven't tried it yet, by all means do so; you won't be disappointed.

17. The Carousel (More Ice Cream)

Etna is not without competition (see previous article). The Carousel in Simpson Bay not only has the island's only authentic carousel, which is perfect both for kids and their parents, but it also manufactures authentic Italian gelato in a number of flavors and it has a horde of topping selections. They also have a little gift shop where you can buy carousel memorabilia.

Definitely give it a try. JMB Website Supporters members get discounts — see the Secret Site. If you're not yet a member, join here: our Birthday Sale is in its final week.

18. The Butterfly Farm

The Butterfly Farm on French St. Martin, which is served by the same Orient beach entrance as Club Orient, provides a quite amazing opportunity for kids of every age to enjoy nature at its most beautiful. The population of butterflies changes every few days and ranges in size from relatively small ones to very colorful ones several inches across. Wear brightly colored clothing and you may just have a few tag along.

On Sunday morning, we posted a new video on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), though you may have to scroll down a bit to find it among recent postings.

The Butterfly Farm is very inexpensive but nonetheless offers discounts to JMB Website Supporters members. See article 13 for info on joining.

Butterfly Farm video (direct post): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9iamEJ_cSo

19. The SXM Park / Zoo

Located not far from Philipsburg, the St. Martin zoological Park (zoo) offers an assortment of tropical animals you're not likely to see in any US zoo. They are uniquely tropical in nature so this is the place to see them. Great for adults and kids.

The St. Maarten Zoo/Park offers discounts to JMB members; see the Secret Site for details. It's one of more than 260 discounts and other benefits available to our members. A membership sale ends next weekend; join today. See article 13.

20. Star Wars Museum (Yoda Guy)

The man who created Yoda, the Star Wars character, took up residence a number of years ago in St. Maarten and has operated the Yoda Guy Museum on the island virtually ever since.

Although the museum is called The Yoda Guy, nonetheless it is in fact a Star Wars museum since Yoda is so intimately involved with the whole Star Wars phenomenon. You'll understand once you see it — and it's well worth seeing on Front Street (east end), Philipsburg, opposite the Guavaberry Emporium.

Here's more: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Yoda-Guy-Movie-Exhibit-295303327163046/>

21. Discounts on Hundreds of SXM Activities for JMB Members Only

Although we say that JMB Website Supporters membership offers about 264 discounts, the actual number is way higher — since we offer a percentage off on just about every SXM activity available through at Aqua Mania on the waterfront at Simpson Bay resort.

You don't have to go to Aqua Mania to take advantage of these discounts, either. You can simply go to the link on our Secret Site and make your reservations online. The process is quick, it's simple, and all that's needed is your valid JMB Website Supporters membership card plus the secret code we give you on the site to get your discount.

Aqua Mania offers discounted ticketing for JMB members for hundreds of SXM activities. See the Secret Site now for details. *Your JMB Membership Card is required when you check in to take any discounted activity.*

22. SXM's Best Supermarket

We have lots of supermarket news this week.

First, the Simply Market and in Grand Case has closed. It had three issues: when it was busy, its few registers had long lines and there was no quick check out. Second, it couldn't compete with the Super U market in Marigot — ever since Super U opened, Simply had been much less crowded. It wasn't price competitive and didn't have the central location attractiveness of Super U.

For consumers, the good news is that Super U is taking over the property and will open a second market at that Grand Case location. The new market is expected to open within the next several weeks.

Meanwhile, the venerable Grand Marche market in Philipsburg will be completely redesigned this year, though we don't know the timing. Chief honcho Anil Sabnani told us earlier that it would either be converted to a new Carrefour market like their other location on the Bush Road or be heavily renovated — more likely, we think, since the customer base for the Philipsburg store differs from the Bush road location near the French border.

As always, we'll keep you posted. It's great to see increasing competition in this sector. Right now, the Super U in Marigot in our opinion is the best on the island in terms of price, convenience, and selection, although the Bush Road Carrefour location is a close second.

23. An Adult Summer: Where To Get Tan All Over

The island has three clothing optional beaches.

The first and most popular is at the southern end of Orient beach at Club Orient. This beach has chairs and umbrellas available, rest room facilities, and both the bar and bar/restaurant on premises and available for use without getting dressed (just bring a towel to sit on).

Cupecoy beach on the Dutch side, where Dany and John offer chair and umbrella rentals and in season cook up a storm, is another great location. Their bar will also keep you hydrated or, at least, adjust your attitude.

Friars Bay beach on the French side is not clothing optional, but you can park there and walk about fifteen minutes north to Happy Bay, which is. There also are limited services on that beach from another Danny.

If you're going to try a clothing-optional beach for the first time, we suggest Club Orient; most people had their first such experience there. Also see [our article on trying clothing optional Sunbathing for the first time](#).

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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](#).

27. 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*.

28. 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.

29. 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.*

30. A Word To American and Canadian Ex-Pats Living in SXM...

You want to make sure to get back to the US or Canada in a hurry if you become critically ill or injured while staying in SXM or traveling almost anywhere else worldwide. That's why you should opt for "xPat" coverage from SkyMed, the medical evacuation membership company we've long recommended.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

For answers to any questions regarding xPat or any other SkyMed coverage, contact Jeff Berger anytime at jeff@getskymed.com. You can also call him anytime during the week (office hours EDT) at 508-747-8281. He'll be happy to answer your questions. (JMB members looking to contact Membership Services with JMB membership questions should email support@jmbcommunications.com.)

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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *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://everythingxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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