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#1051 --- Monday, 6/20/2016 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Webite Login

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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From: www.imbcommunications.com

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

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

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You are receiving 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:



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

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

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

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- -- Watch Out for Home Grown Hurricanes: Lightbown
- -- Richard Branson To Launch Cruise Line; Talks Investment With SXM Locals
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- -- SXM's Best Small Resorts & Winners of Our Everything SXM Award of Excellence
- -- Final Orient Beach Bar / Restaurant Holdouts Sign Leases
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- -- Update on Island Medical Care / Hospitals
- -- Best Burgers, Fish & Chips, Lobster, Sushi, Desserts, & Fishing Trips
- -- The SkyMed Bonus Can Bring You Free JMB Membership Renewals
- -- "Finally Everything Is Falling into Place...."
- -- Get Multiple \$50 Gift Cards Good at SXM's Top Jewelry Stores

35 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingsxm.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:

Returns next week.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Returns next week.

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent sale/index.shtml

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing list of 260+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now a growing list of 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. Watch Out for Home Grown Hurricanes: Lightbown

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of www.crownweather.com, our go-to source for tropical weather information and updates, is continuing to say that home-grown storms are still likely during the near-term hurricane season.

He spoke late last week about the possibility of a storm developing in the Bay of Campeche, but seemed more concerned that a storm could form once again off the coast of North Carolina *now* and move northward, possibly achieving tropical storm strength.

Anyone who lives in an area which may be affected by tropical systems should make the very small outlay required to obtain all the guidance offered by www.crownweather.com and Rob Lightbown. It can be extremely helpful to your planning in the event a storm appears, whether you're on the US East Coast, Florida, the Gulf coast, Canadian Maritimes, or the entire Caribbean.

2. United Airlines Increases SXM Service from O'Hare, Cuts Prices

United Airlines, which has served St. Maarten from Chicago for a number of years, is increasing its service from O'Hare next winter and for now is dropping its prices.

Nonstop service is being expanded to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with fares well below those charged in recent memory. We don't know how long this will last, but it's good news for JMB Website Supporters members throughout the heartland who come to SXM via Chicago.

Delta, flying nonstops from Minneapolis, has also been highly competitive — they're well worth a look for anyone from that area or nearby Canada.

3. Attention UK: Winair Signs Interline Deal With British Airways

Winair airlines, which has been servicing Antigua from SXM for a while, has now signed an interline agreement with British Airways (BA) which facilitates service between St. Maarten and the UK via Antigua, a British island.

It's a big deal. If the service develops sufficient demand, it could move BA toward servicing SXM directly, something the British flag carrier has been looking into recently. It sees KLM flying in from Amsterdam and Air France from Paris — so it could come to regard St. Maarten as a future route opportunity, as we previously reported.

We'll see. For more, look here. See next story.

4. Richard Branson To Launch Cruise Line; Talks Investment With SXM Locals

We recently published an article about Richard Branson's interest over the years in developing something in St. Maarten. Regardless of whether the current conference was centered around shark preservation, it's reasonable to conclude that Branson — the entrepreneur behind Virgin Airways and Virgin Atlantic — remains interested in doing more on and-or with St. Maarten.

Part of his visit this time regards the launch of Virgin cruises, coming in 2020. Port St. Maarten has announced informally that Virgin will be serving SXM, something that is welcomed. It would be even better if some of the ships were home ported on the island and better still if the island works with the carrier to develop a destination resort here, which we think still remains possible (but not likely).

More information is available here and here.

5. Exclusively for our Readers & Members, Free Membership in SkyMed Travel Club

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. See last week's *Weekly News* for a review from one of our readers.

6. Where To Get Current SXM Weather Info

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.

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

7. Last Week's Caravanserai / Alegria Court Case: When Results Are Due

The first hearing on the main case pitting Caravanseral timeshare owners against Alegria occurred more than a week ago, at which time the court told the litigants that it expects to have a decision sometime early in August.

The litigants have placed a lien on the property to prevent any demolition / reconstruction / renovation which would have affected the status of their units at Caravanserai/Alegria, which is one of many reasons that nothing is happening on the property -- in our opinion, a very good thing.

We'll keep you posted.

8. SXM's Best Small Resorts & Winners of Our Everything SXM Award of Excellence

There's been quite a resurgence in SXM accommodations at all levels. Last week, we talked about large resorts on the island and how developments at Simpson Bay Resort, Oyster Bay Beach Resort, and others have made a material difference in the overall quality of SXM accommodations.

This week, we turn to smaller resorts.

For years, we've talked about **Summit Resort**, which has undergone some significant renovations in recent years. Blessed with a hilltop location that takes a backseat to no one in terms of its commanding view of the pristine northwest corner of Simpson Bay lagoon, the resort consists of close to fifty two- and one- story chalets, all equipped with cooking facilities and refrigerators as well as cable TV and Internet connectivity. Its new restaurant is operated by the same guy that operates Fat Tony's though its menu is entirely different — good stuff. Summit Resort Hotel is a consistent Everything SXM Award of Excellence winner thanks in large measure to its outstanding general manager, Ms. Pat Evans. The lady knows her stuff.

The Baker family is responsible for **Baker's Suites** in the Pelican key area, opposite Atrium hotel. It has all the amenities you could possibly want including a central location, walking distance to Kim Sha beach, a new continental breakfast, and car-rental facilities inside the building. Although the hotel is only a couple of years old, the Baker family is already renovating the rooms, although we have no idea how they could possibly make the place better than it already is. Baker's is also a consistent winner of our Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence.

Mary's Boon Beach Plantation at its own private location on beautiful Simpson Bay beach, is a gorgeous tropical retreat with its own restaurant and an enthralling bit of history. Operated by Mark and Karla Cleveland for many years, this is a destination resort that works hard to deliver total relaxation to its guests, thousands of whom visit year after year. Definitely add it to your list.

L'Esplanade, the Grand Case standout, also a frequent winter of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence, has gorgeously appointed rooms, a top-line staff, an outstanding award-winning spa run by Tricia Altenau, and an amazing location which is walking distance to all the fine dining restaurants in Grand Case and of course Grand Case beach. L'Esplanade is a real gem.

El Zafiro, the new resort on Simpson Bay beach, offers gorgeously redone accommodations right on the beach with a bar and restaurant next door. We've seen the accommodations and highly recommend them — attention to detail is evident in everything here. Definitely check it out. (Formerly Tahoma, completely redone and new ownership too.)

SECTION 3: Island

Last Call -- Don't Miss It! Sale Ends Sunday June 19 -- <u>Join, Renew, or Reinstate Now!</u> Join With Us As We Go for 300 Discounts Across SXM!

We're in the 260s and are adding many new SXM discounts this very week -- as we take up "Dr. Soc's" Challenge and go for 300 discounts across SXM -- discounts for virtually everything you do on vacation!

Take advantage of some of the lowest prices of the year -- join now

<u>New JMB memberships</u> -- One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available) http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

9. Crime Spikes in Low Season: Be Careful Out There

Crime in SXM, though it has dropped in the last few years according to public statistics, still seems to spike during low season. With the exception of Antarctica, you probably can't totally escape crime anywhere. As we've always said, quoting Kathy Hetzel, St. Maarten is paradise, not utopia. Always keep an eye on your surroundings and don't do anything that you wouldn't do at home. Never put valuables in your car trunk, for example, and avoid flashy gold chains or large wads of cash,

Much more on staying safe in paradise is here.

10. Final Orient Beach Bar / Restaurant Holdouts Sign Leases

We've never agreed with the long-time French tactic of doing public demonstrations that shut down commerce. But the demonstrations by French side merchants and their sympathizers last March, while they didn't last long and inconvenienced many tourists, seem to have caught the attention of local officials, who apparently made minor concessions to merchants.

The last two lease holdouts at the new bars and restaurants on Orient beach have now signed their contracts. <u>Here</u> is the story.

11. Zika Update / CDC Report on Microcephaly

Dry season has helped the island in its fight against Zika; there is very little going on..

The US Centers for Disease Control, the CDC, says that many women who became infected by Zika in the last trimester of their pregnancy gave birth to entirely normal children, which may possibly reinforce the thought that the most dangerous time of pregnancy to catch Zika is the first trimester. That appears to be when microcephaly is a possible severe side effect/birth defect resulting from Zika infection.

If you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant, you should ask your obstetrician for advice on whether you should travel anywhere where Zika might be prevalent this summer. Findings continue to evolve and it makes sense to have the latest information.

12. No Alligators in SXM, Just Iguanas -- And They're Vegetarians

Following the horrific tragedy at Walt Disney World in Orlando, all we can say is that there are no alligators in St. Maarten — just iguanas.

Although they can be fearsome looking, they're only a few feet long and are strict vegetarians unless they're competing for food with other iguanas, in which case they might chomp the neck of the iguana who stands between them and lunch.

You often see them on lawns munching weeds, at the edge of ponds, occasionally on beaches, and in the small pond opposite the entrance to Westin Dawn Beach Resort and Casino. There, people often feed them salad greens and stale French bread. They're peaceful creatures that don't mind having their picture taken....

13. Sanctuaries Protect Against Shark Fishing in the Caribbean

Many shark species worldwide are endangered, leading to increased efforts to put a lid on shark fishing. The interest in some cultures in shark fins also threatens the animals since it helps motivate rampant overfishing.

Here is that story.

14. Seaweed Update

Right now the seaweed situation is good, with very little found on area beaches. See next story.

15. Weather Update

Heat waves like those seen in many major US cities during the summer are extremely rare in St. Martin/St. Maarten. Temperatures in the mid-90s with high humidity are routine in places like New York, Washington, Detroit, Chicago, etc. But in SXM, temperatures usually peak out in the high 80s and humidity is not usually high at all. And then there are those soothing seabreezes that are around most of the time.

No crowds, either. If you haven't finalized summer vacation plans yet, the rates are low in SXM during the summer, too. Come on down....

16. Update on Island Medical Care / Hospitals

SXM has two hospitals — the St. Maarten Medical Center on the Dutch side, and the St. Martin Hospital on the French.

The Dutch Side Medical Center has been the subject of a lot of criticism over the years and local officials are seriously working on that; see next story. The French Side Hospital is superior, but neither facility is at the level of top hospitals in the US or Canada.

The fact is that when American tourists or ex-pats become seriously ill or injured on SXM, their first action is to get home where their health insurance works and where they can get the latest skilled treatment. Unfortunately the latest / best healthcare innovations are not now available in SXM. Please see the next story and also story 18.

17. Dutch Side Achieving Progress Toward Developing New Hospital

We've reported many times here about The American Clinic, a Dutch Side Medical Tourism project which has not died though it has not made great strides toward realization either.

There is wide recognition that the Dutch Side needs to provide better medical care for citizens and tourists. The Netherlands has agreed to provide funding support for the construction of a new hospital, and efforts in that direction continue to progress. See <u>details</u> here.

18. Anything Can Happen Anywhere, Anytime: Trust SkyMed To Take You Home

SkyMed Takes You Home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Whether it's an accident, a sudden illness, or virtually anything else, SkyMed is your free ticket home aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with a medical attendant on board to make sure everything goes as planned.

Like clockwork, you'll be taken from the hospital to a waiting aircraft by ambulance at SkyMed's expense; SkyMed pays all costs for the medical evacuation jet and for the ambulance at the destination which takes you to a waiting team at your destination hospital, which already has your medical records and is ready to start working.

Anything can happen anywhere — but you can always trust SkyMed to take you home when you need it most.

Without SkyMed, you'll need \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance to pay for the medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going. *Do it today while it's fresh in your mind*. The SkyMed bonus will kick in afterwards, as described below.

See www.getskymed.com or phone Jeff any weekday at 508-747-8281 or email him at jeff@getskymed.com (use the subject "SkyMed inquiry") to learn more and get your questions answered.

If you're not a JMB Website Supporters member and would like to join SkyMed, here's something special 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 or by phone, 508-747-8281 (regular office hours EDT).
- 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 July 31, 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.

Again, to learn more, email <u>jeff@getskymed.com</u> 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 but it ends Sunday 6/19.

<u>New JMB memberships</u> -- One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available) http://everythingsxm.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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u> 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

19. Best Burgers

Burgers, of course, are available just about everywhere. We like ours with cheese and ketchup but you can get yours practically any way you want it at any of a variety of locations across the island.

Sad to say, there is one and only one place to get the now very famous and nearly legendary **Johney Burgers** — and that is at their sole emporium in the departure lounge at SXM Airport.

Offering an assortment of meticulously crafted, painstakingly prepared island-inspired burgers, this place is a perfect candidate for the best on the island.

Airline departures are bunched in the afternoon, particularly on Saturdays — and lines then can be long at Johney Burgers. We urge you to get there early and definitely make time to enjoy this uniquely American culinary feast tweaked to the taste of the islands. You will not be disappointed.

Of course, you don't have to leave the island to have great burgers; there are a number of other choices. The top two, in our opinion, are at **Mr. Busby's Beach Bar** (Dawn Beach) — though their exquisite location on the beach may prejudice us a bit. Here, the burgers are spiced while they're grilling. If you prefer un-spiced burgers, ask when ordering — they'll be happy to accommodate. Busby's, of course, is one of our long-time favorite spots for breakfast and lunch as well as outstanding pizzas from neighboring Island Pizza. In high season, this place gets mobbed, so come early and-or stay late. Delicious stuff.

Our other choice for burgers is **Vesna Taverna** (Simpson Bay). Though known for their outstanding French/Greek/American dinners, they also serve great breakfasts and lunches that include home-made bagels in a variety of flavors, though they tend to run out early. A burger with your favorite cheese on a bagel is a slice of heaven. Definitely plan on it.

Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay is best known for its dinners but they also serve delicious lunches including outstanding burgers — definitely give them a try.

Two more favorites for burgers are both **Toppers** and **Toppers by the Sea** in Simpson Bay — great stuff again. Of course, Topper hits home runs with everything so try him for both lunch and dinner, too. His meatloaf and brisket are both legendary.

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.

20. Best Fish & Chips

We think **Skipjacks** beats everybody else here. Skipjacks serves lobster from cold Maine waters as well as delicious Caribbean lobster. But its fish and chips usually features either cod or haddock, we think, unheard-of in SXM where Mahi usually rules the day. In any case this, folks, is the real thing....

21. Best Lobster

SXM has a tremendous choice of places to get lobster.

If you like lobster Thermidor, **Pineapple Pete** in Simpson Bay has a conga line of Lobster Thermidors from their kitchen to the restaurant's tables every night during high season. It's one of their most popular dishes.

Another great choice is both **Toppers** and **Toppers by the Sea**, Simpson Bay, which offer not only a divinely well-prepared lobster but great prices, too.

SkipJack's, located on the water in Simpson Bay, is another great choice for lobster and they sell a ton of it.

Daniel's by the Sea in oyster pond, Dutch side, right on Dawn beach, has its own lobster pound where you can select the one you want. They offer preparation options and a number of great sides as well as an absolutely unique ambience right on the beach, where this time of the month you can watch the full moon rising. It's a great romantic restaurant with lots of choices and their lobster is one of the best you'll ever find.

22. Best Sushi

Sushiitto, at the Princess port de Plaisance resort, in our opinion is the top Japanese restaurant on the island. Offering sashimi, sushi, and hibachi cooking, complete with all the dramatic trimmings, their food is terrific, the service is top-notch, and the prices are reasonable — just as you'd expect from a Pierre Ferland property. Definitely go. Ivan, the GM, is also great at his job.

We've heard a lot about the **Ginger** restaurant behind IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay but have not visited yet; apparently it has some rather good vegetarian selections, too.

One place where you wouldn't expect sushi is at one of the island's top seafood restaurants, now under new management as we've mentioned recently. **Big Fish**, in addition to having seafood and lots of other things, also has super sushi appetizers — order enough, and you can have your own sushi feast, as some people have done including us.

Definitely try Big Fish — great atmosphere, attentive service, experienced management (Mike & Teresa), and outstanding food. Mention us when you go....

23. Best Desserts

This may be the single most difficult category... how do you select a few from dozens of great choices?

In no special order...

Vesna Taverna, where Vesna herself creates all the choices. She's a fine chef in addition to all her other great qualities, but she loves to craft outstanding desserts.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay, has Etna ice cream but so do lots of other places. But their special chef's creations desserts, created by Chef Stefano and others, are exceptional.

Three more: **Mario's Bistro**, **Temptation**, and **Spiga** -- all elite restaurants that have received our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence -- have extraordinary fare from appetizer to dessert. Amazing places, all three.

How can you miss?

24. Best Fishing Trips

Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing -- right in Simpson Bay. Rudy Sierens is a highly experience captain who knows exactly where the best fish are . . . and would love to take you there. Learn more here. He also provides discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; join, renew, or reinstate during our Membership Sale, ending 6/19. See the beginning of Section Three for more (this section) or see the end of the next story.

25. The SkyMed Bonus Can Bring You Free JMB Membership Renewals

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.

<u>New JMB memberships</u> -- One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available) http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

26. & 27. What's "Falling Into Place"? Watch The Space Next week for All The Details...

28. Two New SXM Supermarkets (Really Three) ... What, Where, When

The story behind the supermarket changes...

- a) The French owner of the "Simply" supermarket chain has been bought out by the French owner of the Super U chain, so Simply in Grand Case will become a new Super U after heavy construction. Completion, Fall, most likely.
- b) The other "Simply" in Sandy Ground is too small for a Super U configuration (and it's too close to the existing Super U) so, for now, it will stay as is.
- c) Between Marigot and Grand Case, within earshot of the Go-Kart Track, a new shopping area will be built with a Hyper-U -- like Super U but substantially bigger, perhaps more like US markets. It needs permits for access roads, in process. Our guess is maybe late 2017 ... should be quite the place.
- d) Le Grand Marche in Philipsburg is to be completely redone this year. When we last spoke with owner Anil

Sabnani branding was unclear, but a very major facelift / rebuilding should be finished this year.

29. Get Multiple \$50 Gift Cards Good at SXM's Top Jewelry Stores

They are just a few of the 260+ discounts / benefits of JMB membership. Why spend more than you need to? Join, reinstate, or renew today; sale ends 6/19. See story #25.

Restaurant of the Week Returns Next Week

Prior Restaurants of the Week:

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 6/13/16)

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, <u>www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (featured 5/2/16)

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

Spiga, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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.

<u>New JMB memberships</u> -- One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available) http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

30. Where to Get Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Newly Updated 6/13/16)

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.qetskymed.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 <u>SXM Weekly News PDF Archives</u> page.

Q. How fast are the evacuations?

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

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

A. No, they don't. Once you're a member, as long as you continue to pay your membership fee your membership continues regardless of your health or age, when you buy an annual or multiyear membership and keep it in force. SkyMed does not throw you out if you get sick. If you allow your membership to lapse, you will need to reapply to determine if you're still medically acceptable -- so just don't let it lapse.

Q. I have a few medical issues and I'm in my 70s. Will SkyMed accept me?

A. In its brief application process, completed online or by phone or in person with a rep, SkyMed asks for your name, DOB, current Rx medications, medical conditions, and hospitalizations in the last six months. It also asks where in the US or Canada you want to be transported when you need an emergency medical evacuation. It now also requests your passport number to help expedite customs / immigration should you require an international medical evacuation flight. The vast, vast majority of applicants are readily accepted. You do not have to be in "phenomenal" health at all. By the way: if you travel very little and only for short periods, you can apply for SkyMed's short-term memberships; they cover all pre-existing conditions in full, immediately. Just remember that you must medically requalify every time you need a new short-term membership, which is why most of our members buy and renew annual or multiyear Ultimate SkyMed memberships instead of short-term. Those memberships cover all pre-existing conditions in 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. <u>Multiyear memberships give you more benefits than annual memberships but cost less when paid at inception</u>. They're quite a bargain.

Q. Is there a best time to buy?

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

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

The basic annual SkyMed "Takes You Home®" plan covers you in the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. The Ultimate membership covers you globally through SkyMed Global -- or you can add a global rider to annual memberships (at \$100/year) which adds rest-of-the-world coverage, also through SkyMed Global. SkyMed does not cover countries where there are open hostilities -- Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, North Korea, etc.

Q. I already belong to SkyMed but I'm pretty sick now. Will SkyMed drop me?

Once you've bought an annual or longer SkyMed membership, that membership stays in force as long as you pay renewals on time regardless of how old you get or how sick you get. When you're in, you're in -- declining health is not an issue. And no, you do not have to tell us about changes in your health that occur after you join.

Q. I'm an American [or Canadian] xPat now living in SXM. Since I live there, can I still be brought "home" to Canada or the US?

As long as you've purchased our xPat Membership (for people who live in SXM six months or more per year), you absolutely will be taken home, back to the US or Canada, to the hospital of your choice when you become critically ill or injured. Just be sure you've specified your preferred home hospital in your SkyMed application.

Got Other Questions?

If you have questions about SkyMed not answered above, email <u>jeff@getskymed.com</u> 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.

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

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

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

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

Our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>, which has been around for several years, covers SXM happenings in words and pictures from its thousands of users and enables people to ask questions, get answers, post trip reports, etc. We also post things there between issues of *SXM Weekly News*.

33. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

Need a Great Website or Other Marketing Services?

Use <u>JMB Communications</u>, the company behind Everything SXM.

34. 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://everythingsxm.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.

35. Thank You From The Bergers

Both Jeff Berger's personal site on Facebook and our two Everything St. Maarten Facebook sites told readers that last Tuesday, Ilene Berger, Jeff's wife, underwent major surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Many readers on those sites and others offered good wishes and prayers for her speedy recovery.

llene and Jeff and their family want to thank everyone for their encouragement during this challenging time. "We are grateful to all of you," Jeff said. "You are our St. Maarten family. Thank you. We are very grateful. We know your prayers helped her recovery a great deal."

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13) Returns Next Issue

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See 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://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit http://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi, select *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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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 <code>jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com</code> with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

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

To see the JMB Communications **Privacy Policy**, visit http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy-policy/index.shtml

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