

Can't see this newsletter? Go [here](#).

#1059 --- Monday, 8/15/2016 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

[Member News \(New\)](#)

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

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2016. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book
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 well over 270,000 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

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

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

- **The Sapphire Timeshare Debacle: Verdiere Slam T/S Owners With Big SMF**
- **Sapphire Timeshare Owners Wondering Whether It's Time To Bail...**
- **Caravanserai Court Case Decision Coming August 23, Court Says: What This Case Means, How It Works**
- **Beat The Price Increase on New, Renewal, and Reinstated JMB Memberships**
- **Why Our SXM Facebook Site Won't Allow Rental Postings**
- **Where to Rent or Buy Timeshare Weeks From Their Owners**
- **Where to Ask SXM Questions & Get Answers**
- **See and Post SXM Pictures in Our Online Albums**
- **Cutting Credit Card Costs During SXM & Other Overseas Trips**
- **Where To Adopt Island Dogs**

-- **How To Solve The "Pre-Existing Conditions" 90-Day Waiting Period on SkyMed Memberships**

-- **Where to Get Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation**

-- **Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page**

-- **Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway**

-- **Got a Spare \$45,000? Anything Can Happen Anywhere, So You Might Just Need It**

24 news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

FLOATING WEEK 1/2/2016 12/17/2016 Westin Dawn Beach Club The rate includes all resort fees, hotel taxes, Wi-Fi and mid-week cleaning service. You will have complete access to all the wonderful Westin hotel amenities and services. This luxurious 3 bedroom/2 bath residence sleeps 6 to 8 and has spectacular ocean views and is appointed with modern furnishings and finishes including granite counter-tops, fully equipped gourmet kitchen, private laundry room with washer and dryer, flat-screen TVs in every room, indulgent beds and what has got to be the most spectacular sunrises! This unit is completely furnished and includes linens for bedrooms and bathrooms, cooking and dining essentials, ironing equipment, and hair dryers. Walking distance to Mr. Busby's! \$3250 USD
Kevin kswan53@hotmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

FLOATING WEEK 4/29/2016 10/16/2016 Royal Palm Beach Resort I have reserved week 41 this year 10/8/2016-10/15/2016. Maintenance fee paid. You may exchange for a week of your choice. All suites are beachfront with extraordinary views. King beds in bedroom. Fully equipped kitchen. Dining room Living room with queen pullout sofa. See Diamondresorts.com for all to see all amenities. Amenities also at sister resort Flamingo. Shuttles available. Great restaurants within walking distance. I have owned weeks for 26 years at Royal Palm. A great resort on a beautiful Island. Time for me to sell my last week at a giveaway price. \$950 Lorraine 978-372-3426
mloricrook@comcast.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

1. Delta Outage Affects SXM
2. SXM Airport Receives Award
3. Take Advantage of Your Free Membership in the SkyMed Travel Club
4. Where To Get Current *Detailed* SXM Weather Info

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

5. The Sapphire Timeshare Debacle: Verdiers Slam T/S Owners With Big SMF
6. Sapphire Timeshare Owners Wondering Whether It's Time To Bail...
7. Sitbon's Lawyers Examining What Sapphire Is Doing: Is It Even Legal?
8. Why Our SXM Facebook Site Won't Allow Rental Postings
9. Where to Rent or Buy Timeshare Weeks From Their Owners
10. Caravanserai Court Case Decision Coming August 23, Court Says: What This Case Means, How It Works

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

Section Three: Member [Go To This Section](#)

11. Introducing The New "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates
12. Member Benefits Update

Section Four: Island [Go To This Section](#)

Beat The Price Increase on New, Renewal, and Reinstated JMB Memberships

13. Where to Ask SXM Questions & Get Answers
14. See and Post SXM Pictures in Our Online Albums
15. Cutting Credit Card Costs During SXM Trips
16. Where To Adopt Island Dogs
17. How To Solve The "Pre-Existing Conditions" 90-Day Waiting Period on SkyMed Memberships
18. Restaurant of the Week
19. Got a Spare \$45,000? Anything Can Happen Anywhere, So You Might Just Need It
20. Where to Get Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
21. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
22. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
23. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News
24. Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway

Section Five: 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 Six: 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://everythingxm.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. Delta Outage Affects SXM

The fire and subsequent computer outage that affected Delta Airlines last week also affected St. Maarten. The problem wasn't so much the immediate cancellations, which happen often. It was the recovery which was ridiculously slow. Delta cancellations continued for days as did delays. Airline backup systems need to be more robust to stop these things from happening.

2. SXM Airport Receives Award

SXM Airport, the big Dutch side international airport also known as Princess Juliana, has won yet another international award for business excellence. Here's the story:

<https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/59357-airport-receives-award-for-business-excellence>

3. Take Advantage of Your Free Membership in the SkyMed Travel Club

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers 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. Readers who have used it already speak very highly of it, as we've reported right here.

If you've already joined and used the service, [tell us what you think](#).

4. Where To Get Current **Detailed** 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 page was heavily updated in August, 2016.

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 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

5. The Sapphire Timeshare Debacle: Verdiers Slam T/S Owners With Big SMF

As if the experience of Sapphire timeshare owners weren't bad enough over the last several years, now developers Jean Verdier and his son Philippe, through their appointed Sapphire timeshare association, have slammed Sapphire timeshare owners with a large special assessment, payment for which is due almost immediately. There is an option for extended payments, but that's not the issue.

The issue is whether this Supplemental Maintenance Fee is proper, given the fact that the court in St. Maarten is about to render a verdict on who is to own the resort — the Verdiers or the Sitbon family, which filed the suit.

If the resort is taken over by the Sitbons, isn't it logical to think that this special assessment will be kept by the Verdiers after they relinquish ownership of the resort? Our sense is that the court in St. Maarten ought to enjoin the Verdiers from carrying out this assessment until the court case has been resolved, and further that it should require the Verdiers to return any funds collected from timeshare owners through this questionable assessment until resort ownership has been determined.

In the past, timeshare owners have alleged that for many years, the resort collected maintenance fees and did no visible maintenance. In fact, timeshare owner complaints led RCI several years ago to suspend Sapphire from its system, a suspension that was lifted only recently. Government inspections a couple of years ago found numerous items reportedly not meeting current standards. Timeshare owners also say that in the past, when the resort collected supplemental maintenance fees, it use them to perform regular maintenance in an alleged violation of the contract given to timeshare owners when they bought their weeks.

See the following stories for more on this evolving situation.

6. Sapphire Timeshare Owners Wondering Whether It's Time To Bail...

Within hours of receiving notice of the Supplemental Maintenance Fee being levied by the Verdiere via the Sapphire timeshare association, timeshare owners started asking us for advice on whether it is finally time for them to bail out of the resort.

Although we don't give legal advice, we do have a few observations.

First, this is a highly fluid situation primarily because of the court case against the Verdiere which could change the ownership of the resort in the short term.

Second, as is explained in a subsequent story, attorneys for the Sitbon's have the full package of materials that was sent to Sapphire timeshare owners and last week and were reviewing it word by word. We don't know what interaction they may take with the court on St. Maarten, if any, and until that plays out we think timeshare owners might want to consider delaying any major decisions.

Third, on the other hand, Jan Borsje as far as we know is still managing the resort day-to-day. An experienced and respected figure, he has apparently been doing a good job of dealing with some of the resort's deficiencies. He has had past disagreements with the Verdiere, however, and we don't know how long this relationship will endure. Remember, too, as long as the Verdier family owns this resort, the kind of shenanigans that have occurred here over the last several years are bound to continue. Throughout its history, Sapphire has never been regarded by its timeshare owners as being particularly consumer-friendly.

Please see the following articles.

Need a Great Website or Other Marketing, Advertising, PR, Publicity, or Promotional Services?

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

7. Sitbon's Lawyers Examining What Sapphire Is Doing: Is It Even Legal?

As mentioned above, the lawyers for the Sitbon family which is litigating against the Verdiere for control of Sapphire Beach Resort were looking at the entire Supplemental Maintenance Fee package sent out by the Verdiere a week ago. We don't know whether they have taken any steps to stop this.

It may very well be that since the Verdiere own Sapphire Beach Resort, they are entitled to do this regardless of whether it's ethical under the circumstances. Nonetheless, we hope that common sense prevails and that the lawyers petition the court to enjoin the Verdiere from pursuing the Supplemental Maintenance Fee, and require them to refund any fees already collected.

Whether there are money troubles at Sapphire due to many timeshare owners "walking away," we don't know. That, too, would not surprise us, though many new appliances have arrived recently.

We'll continue to cover this evolving situation.

8. Why Our SXM Facebook Site Won't Allow Rental Postings

As most seasoned travelers know, rental scams are nothing new. Utilizing well-known rental sites, scammers offer rentals on properties they don't own, without the owner's knowledge or permission. Funds are collected, vacationers arrive, and the property owners are startled to discover the scam — as are the vacationers.

To prevent scams, we are very careful about running timeshare rental or sale ads on any of our sites. The only place we'll run them is on www.everythingsxm.com, which has its own page of rentals and sales for both St. Maarten and worldwide locations. Ads are accepted only from current members of JMB Website Supporters, which means that we have data on the people who are submitting the ads. Should there be any issues, we are prepared to respond to government authorities with any information they officially require, a fact that has been in our privacy policy for years. *If you want to see legitimate ads from real people for properties they own, go to www.everythingsxm.com.*

We never allow any rental or sale promotion on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook page](#). Since that page has open membership, allowing such postings would open the door to scams and we have no intention of doing that. We realize this inconveniences some people, but the bottom line is they would be far more seriously inconvenienced where they victims of a scam. We have no intention of letting that happen.

Please check the scam warnings on our timeshare rentals page at www.everythingSXM.com. Information on our company is at www.jmbcommunications.com.

9. Where to Rent or Buy Timeshare Weeks From Their Owners

Here is exactly where to go; see our timeshare rentals / sales page at www.everythingSXM.com

10. Caravanserai Court Case Decision Coming August 23, Court Says: What This Case Means, How It Works

First, a bit of background.

A few years ago, Ray Sidhom, a credit card processing magnate whose office is on Long Island, New York, bought Caravanserai beach resort at auction.

One of his first actions was to email all Caravanserai timeshare owners to tell them he was voiding their timeshare contracts, which meant their units would be unavailable for use, trade, or sale. Regardless of whether timeshare owners had already paid their annual maintenance fee, he offered to give them access to the units if they paid it again to him. By doing that, they also apparently relinquished their ownership of their week, irrevocably. And the deadline was short. Talk about nasty, this move defines that term to a "t."

Consequently, thousands of timeshare owners lost many millions of dollars in timeshare investments.

At the same time, they petitioned the government for help and the government did nothing. As a result, many have sworn publicly never to return to the island. Indeed, anyone who went into the resort, as we did last winter, encountered a ghost town. Now, the situation is far worse there since it's low season. For Sidhom, there is a court injunction preventing him from making any significant changes to existing timeshare owner properties.

Unfortunately, there is no such thing as class action law on St. Maarten, but a number of Caravanserai timeshare owners formed an association, hired an attorney, and went to court against Sidhom and his cohorts. A decision against Sidhom was reached in court several months ago, and the result of the appeal by Sidhom is to be heard on August 23, unless it is postponed again. That decision could fine Sidhom heavily and/or require him to honor the leases of *litigating* timeshare owners who, the court has already said, are entitled to the benefits of the leases they still own.

As we noted, there is no such thing as class action in St. Maarten — but there is such a thing as precedent. If litigating timeshare owners win, other timeshare owners could band together and go to court to seek a similar judgment against Sidhom.

Meanwhile, we are sure the investment group that Sidhom brought together to buy the resort is growing restless; the resort is clearly hemorrhaging cash every day. It has lost numerous court cases it brought against various tenants

and it has no revenue to speak of from guests.

So the other question is how long will it be before the investment group tells Sidhom in no uncertain terms to turn the place profitable or pull the plug, possibly by bankruptcy.

Someone needs to honor timeshare owners leases/contracts. It would be fine with us if that were anybody but Sidhom.

SECTION 3: Member

11 . Introducing The New "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates

This new section of *SXM Weekly News*, which will appear here virtually every week, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB. *In addition, it will be the introduction point for new benefits beyond the 260+ already available to all JMB Website Supporters members.* We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value to all JMB members.

12. Member Benefits Update:

Over the last few weeks, this section has covered sailing, deep-sea fishing, and yacht charters; dining; car rentals; and jewelers. It will return next week covering a new category of JMB member benefits / discounts.

SECTION 4: Island

[Here's Your Chance to Beat The September Price Increase on Longer-Term JMB Memberships:](#)

Get Big Savings On Everything You Do in SXM **With 260+ Island Discounts & Other Benefits and Lots More Coming Very Soon...**

[Join, Renew, or Reinstate Your JMB Website Supporters Membership Now!](#)

Get Low Fares & Island-Wide Discounts Now:

New JMB memberships -- **One year, \$59; Three Years, \$95; Five years, \$125 (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 \$39; 3 years \$69; 7 years \$139**
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements 1 year \$39; 2 years \$49; 5 years \$99**
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

13. Where to Ask SXM Questions & Get Answers

The answer is on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Tell your SXM friends about it!

14. See and Post SXM Pictures in Our Online Albums

One of the most popular things about our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) is that you can also post your SXM pictures there. It's easy; check it today.

15. Cutting Credit Card Costs During SXM Trips

Many credit cards charge currency conversion fees on overseas charges, which means every transaction you put on a credit card will wind up being more expensive because of those fees.

Not all credit cards add such charges. Check with your credit card provider to see if yours is among those that do not.

Also, Bank of America and Bank of Nova Scotia have a reciprocal no fee arrangement, which means you can use your Bank of America debit card to withdraw cash at Scotia Bank branches in St. Maarten without paying any fees. That's a particularly handy way to get cash for dinners without using your credit card or incurring currency conversion fees.

U. S. Dollars are accepted everywhere. FYI, it takes about \$1.12 now to buy one Euro; Euros are the French Side currency, but some restaurants (including Spiga in Grand Case, one of SXM's best) accept dollars at par with Euros when you pay cash.

16. Where To Adopt Island Dogs

Ursula Oppikofer of the [I Love My Island Dog Association](#) is perhaps the best-known exponent of dog adoptions on the island. If you're interested in adopting an island dog, as many people are, go to her site. Click the British flag for English language version. You can also contact her through the site for information on the process by which you can adopt an island dog and take it home to the US or Canada. There is a specific process you need to be aware of.

You can also contact "Dr. Soc" at Island92 radio, an American xPat who is also highly involved in helping Americans who want to adopt island dogs.

17. How To Solve The "Pre-Existing Conditions" Waiting Period on SkyMed Memberships

When you buy SkyMed Medical Evacuation memberships, they *include* coverage for pre-existing conditions after only a 90 day waiting period. If you have pre-existing conditions and want to be sure they're covered when you travel, you simply buy an annual SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of when you plan to start traveling.

Of course, SkyMed covers pre-existing conditions in full without a waiting period on its short-term memberships. However, annual memberships offer a number of important advantages over short term including coverage for a full year; coverage that is renewable regardless of your age or changes in your health for as long as you live (even to age 109+) as long as you renew before your membership renewal payment due date; and no "rated" increased fees, related to advancing age or declining health.

Although short-term memberships do not have any waiting period, their serious disadvantage is that they cover you

only for the length of the term you buy -- and you must reapply to obtain another short-term membership later. At some point, your health may be such that you won't qualify for another short-term membership, which is why we always recommend people buy annual memberships which are guaranteed renewable at then-current pricing for everyone without renewal-related evidence of insurability provided you have not let your membership lapse.

Why wait? Get SkyMed now: www.getskymed.com. More on SkyMed is in articles later in this newsletter.

18. Restaurant of the Week: Mr. Busby's Beach Bar

Besides its amazing location in tradewinds caressed gazebos under towering palm trees on Dawn Beach, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar (the daytime incarnation of Daniel's by the Sea Italian Restaurant) is our favorite beach bar anywhere on the island.

This long-established landmark on Dawn beach is only a short walk from both Oyster Bay Beach Resort and Dawn Beach Club, and it's a good 15 minute walk on the hilly road (or a quick taxi ride) from the Westin Dawn Beach resort and casino.

Day manager Laurell knows her stuff. The place operates like a well oiled machine though it can get busy especially at lunch during high season. The menu is huge featuring all kinds of beach bar favorites including many sandwiches, appetizers, and salads. Fresh lobster, too, and great burgers. You can also request pizzas from island pizza, right next door, owned by the same folks.

It's a beautiful setting, great food, and outstanding service. It also has been a consistent winner of our Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence. If you haven't tried it, definitely put it on your list as a priority during your next trip to the island.

Busby's and Daniel's both give discounts to JMB Website Supporters members. If you're not a member, see the beginning of this section to learn more and start saving real money on your SXM vacations. Also see the end of this story for our low pricing and links.

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 the end of this story for more.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 8/1/16)
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 7/5/15)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 8/8/16)
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 8/15/16)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 7/25/16)
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 7/18/16)

Get Low Fares & Island-Wide Dining Discounts and Much More Now:

New JMB memberships -- **One year, \$59; Three Years, \$95; Five years, \$125 (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 \$39; 3 years \$69; 7 years \$139
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements**
1 year \$39; 2 years \$49; 5 years \$99
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

19. Got a Spare \$45,000? Anything Can Happen Anywhere, Anytime - So You Might Just Need It

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 an ICU-certified 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 helping you.

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 a 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. Enroll 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 a new annual or multi-year 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 August 31, 2016. We'll do the same thing, of course, for current JMB members buying new SkyMed memberships for themselves.*

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 in this issue.)

For more on JMB memberships, look below.

New JMB memberships -- **One year, \$59; Three Years, \$95; Five years, \$125 (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 \$39; 3 years \$69; 7 years \$139
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements**
1 year \$39; 2 years \$49; 5 years \$99
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

More stories are below.

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. Where to Get Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 7/31/16)

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. (See the question, "**Does SkyMed cover us no matter where we travel?**" which is below.)

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.

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 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.

21. 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](#).

22. 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*.

23. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

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

A complete list of all current prizes appears here next week — 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://everythingxsm.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 -- and subscriptions are free.*

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

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

SECTION 5: 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 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 10/18/15

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi>, select *2016 St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website

Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access. We'll be notified automatically.

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

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

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2016. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. *Everything St. Maarten*, *Everything SXM*, and *Everything St. Martin* are service marks of JMB Communications. *JMB Communications* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

8/15/16 #1059 8/12/16 6p EDT 8.2

| [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2016. World rights reserved.

##