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#1064 --- Monday, 9/19/2016 -- 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*

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.
For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#)
at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

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

- **Latest Updates on That Planned 776-Room Hotel/Apartment Complex at Bel Air Beach**
- **Sapphire Ownership Court Decision: The Second Shoe Drops, Sort Of**
- **News About That Big Apartment Complex To Be Built Opposite Sapphire**
- **Alegria Resort Loses in Court Again**
- **Membership Sale Ends 9/29: 260+ SXM Discounts at Extraordinary Pricing**
- **Coming: More Great Jewelry Bargains for JMB Website Supporters Members Only**
- **Tropical Wave Restaurant Says French Side Government Is Wrecking Its Business**
- **Our Favorite SXM Clothing Optional Beaches & Resorts**
- **Reminder: Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Offered to Vets & Active Duty Military**

-- As Fall-Winter Travel Approaches, Time To Get Serious About SkyMed
-- Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway
-- Pick Up Our SXM Euro-Ovals & SXM Grab Bags

[23](#) 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:

RENTAL 10/1/2016 10/8/2016 40 Royal Palm Beach Resort Fabulous oceanfront 2 bedroom/2 bathroom unit! Sleeps 6 and features 2 king size beds and 3 TVs. The MBR has a large balcony overlooking the crystal clear, waters of the Caribbean. Modern kitchen with stove, oven, full size refrigerator/freezer, microwave, dishwasher, granite and dining room. Ideal location - literally 30 seconds from the beach and oversize pool with swim up bar. Walking distance to shops, casual and formal restaurants, bars, water sports and casinos. Absolutely stunning beach resort with dazzling sunsets from your balcony daily! Royal Palm Beach Resort is located across the street from Simpson Bay - home of some of the world's largest mega yachts! Full gym at the resort. \$995 Brian 702-525-4111 sxmbrian@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/10/2017 2/24/2017 week 6 and week 7 Royal Palm Beach These are two of the highest demand weeks of the year with week 7 Presidents Week. A 2 bedroom with King beds, 2 bath unit has full kitchen, living room with queen sofa bed and comfortably sleeps 6. Oceanfront on the beautiful Caribbean with super yacht on the channel at your front door. There is a convenience store, beauty parlor, gym, Restaurant and pool with swim up bar on the premises. I believe it is the best location in all of SXM with numerous restaurants, casinos and clubs within walking distance. You have beautiful sunsets, your own private balcony, and full picture windows that completely opens to hear the ocean and get a fantastic breeze. \$8,500.00 13152885144 jnorensky@gmail.com

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. Tropical Weather Update

2. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Three Key Sources - Reminder)

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

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

4. Latest Updates on That Planned 776-Room Hotel/Apartment Complex for Bel Air Beach

5. Sapphire Ownership Court Decision: The Second Shoe Drops, Sort Of

6. Rent SXM Condos Directly From Timeshare Owners on Our Site

7. Alegria Resort Loses in Court Yet Again...

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](#)

8. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates

9. September Member Benefits Update: Island Activities

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

10. They're Back: Our SXM Grab Bags - How To Get Yours

11. They're Back: Our SXM Euro Oval Stickers - How To Get Yours

12. Coming: More Great Jewelry Bargains for JMB Website Supporters Members Only

13. Tropical Wave Restaurant Says French Side Government Is Wrecking Its Business

14. Our Favorite SXM Clothing Optional Beaches & Resorts

15. Reminder: Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Offered to Vets & Active Duty Military

16. Restaurant of the Week

17. As Fall-Winter Travel Approaches, Time To Get Serious About SkyMed

18. No Age Limit to Join or Renew SkyMed

19. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation

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

21. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page

22. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

23. 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. Tropical Weather Update

At this writing on Friday 9/16 there are no tropical systems threatening SXM -- but the tropical Atlantic is staying busy. September is the peak month for tropical activity, so we're watching things closely. We post significant National Hurricane Center Outlooks and Advisories as they relate both to SXM and to the US East and Gulf coasts; see them on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime here: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

2. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Three Key Sources - Reminder)

Here they are:

- a) [Crown Weather Services](#), whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- b) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops.
- c) Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

N. B.: Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm. Always heed warnings from local authorities.

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 worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent, even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a phenomenon throughout Europe and are gaining popularity in the US.

Normally, this organization charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now 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.

Join the Club by going to www.SkyMedtravelclub.com, click the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and provide 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.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

4. Latest Updates on Planned 776-Room Hotel/Apartment Complex for Bel Air Beach

The "walking back" phenomenon is alive and well between Trump and Clinton -- but also now on SXM.

It appears that there were many misapprehensions related to recently announced plans to erect a 776 room hotel/apartment complex on Bel Air beach.

In walking back, proponents now say that the project's Chinese backers had not promised that the project would generate one million new tourists per year. Rather, it'll be one million incremental tourists over ten years, they now say.

Second, many inferred from the original announcement that the gigantic structure would be plunked in the middle of pristine Bel Air beach, a few hundred yards North of the Bel Air beach timeshare resort. In fact, backers now say it will be located farther north -- not adjacent to the current wetlands area which, it adds, will not be affected by the structure.

Third, they now say the project should have something of a Vegas feel to it. Here's the whole story, from *The Daily Herald*: <http://tinyurl.com/ja8pxcy>

5. Sapphire Ownership Court Decision: The Second Shoe Drops, Sort Of

The Buildup was pointed: in a court session scheduled for Thursday, September 15, the court was to direct how and when ownership of Sapphire Beach Resort is to be turned over from the Verdier family to Bruno Sitbon and his family, who would then be the owners/developers of the Sapphire Beach Resort property.

The process is continuing, but slowly. The litigant, Bruno Sitbon, said through his attorneys that he simply wants to buy the resort as he has for the past two years. It is expected that the parties will soon receive details from the judge regarding what happens next. Contractual timeshare owner rights will not be affected.

As always, we'll keep you thoroughly posted as the future of Sapphire Beach Resort unfolds.

About that apartment building going up across the street from Sapphire...

We posted a picture of it late last week on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). It's mammoth -- looks like about 15 stories. We've seen nothing from any government officials about traffic mitigation or infrastructure effects.... Tell us what you think -- post your comments on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

6. Rent SXM Condos Directly From Timeshare Owners on Our Site

There is no better place to rent timeshare condos in SXM than directly from timeshare owners themselves. You can do that on our *SXM timeshare rentals/sales page* at www.everythingSXM.com.

Since we accept ads only from paying JMB Website Supporters members, we have identification information about them so if there ever were any problems, we could turn that information over to proper authorities. (It has never happened.) Our rental page also includes guidance about how to avoid rental scams no matter how / where you rent.

All the weeks offered on our pages are advertised by timeshare owners themselves, not by commission-seeking brokers or other third parties. That way we expect you will get the best deal. Check it out.

7. Alegria Resort Loses in Court Yet Again

It's beginning to look like US credit card magnate Ray Sidhom didn't know much about SXM law when he bought Caravanserai Resort, where he unilaterally threw out timeshare owners and has been attempting ever since to throw out business rental tenants.

Despite spending lots on pricey lawyers, Sidhom appears to be getting nowhere. Litigating timeshare owners have won in court in a case that is playing out, and business owners on the property, who Sidhom has sued many times, have consistently beat him in court.

In yet another case, [he has lost again](#). Perhaps it's time for him to fold up his tent and go back where he came from, which is exactly what most people on this island seem to be wishing for.

SECTION 3: Member

8. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

This new section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining.

In addition, it will be the introduction point for new benefits beyond the 260+ already available to all JMB members. We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value.

9. Member Benefits Update: Island Activities

Over the last few weeks, this section has covered sailing, deep-sea fishing, and yacht charters; dining; car rentals; and jewelers.

This month it covers Activities. There are also "sailing" and "deep sea fishing" discounts referred to as part of Activities. *A current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card is required for all activities; benefits are for the member and spouse/partner only, no guests or friends are entitled to JMB discounts unless they are also current JMB members.*

We detailed what these benefits are in last week's *Weekly News*. Here, we're simply repeating who the providers are:

---Aqua Mania at the Simpson Bay Resort (formerly Pelican) Marina (agent for hundreds of SXM Activities)

-- Butterfly Farm

-- Celine Too Motor Yacht / Catamaran (Capt. Neil Roebert)

-- Charter Yachting Discounts - Caicos Sailing:

-- Charter Yachting - Select Yacht Charters

-- Charters - Seaside Charters

-- Classic Schooner Passaat

-- Clothing-Optional Boat Charters - Captain Alan

-- Deep See Fishing, Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing Discounts

-- Diving - Octopus Diving in Grand Case

- Garfield Fun Charters Per Family Member Discount
- Go-Karting Coconut Trees
- Jet-Ski -- Happy Hour Charters
- Party Bus - "Da Party Bus" - The St. Maarten Party Bus
- Power Boat - Sea Angels
- Random Wind 54-foot traditional sailboat
- Yacht Excursions - Turtle Tours Yacht Excursion Discounts
- Zoo - St. Maarten Park / Zoo

Many more discounts are coming. Stay tuned.

For details, see the Discounts Master Index in the Secret Site.

SECTION 4: Island

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**OUR
"BEAT THE PRICE INCREASE"
MEMBERSHIP SALE *MUST END 9/29***

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**Sale on new, renewal, and reinstated
JMB memberships**

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**Get 260+ Island Discounts
And Other Benefits
at Big Savings Now:**

***Join, Renew, or Reinstate Your JMB Website Supporters
Membership Today***

Get Low Fares & Island-Wide Discounts Now at SALE PRICES:

Although our **regular** pricing for JMB memberships increases 9/15, you can still take advantage of our low sale prices all this week. **These sale prices end soon, so take advantage of them today.**

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

Renewal JMB memberships -- **SALE PRICES -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:
1 year \$35; 5 years \$95**
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center* SALE PRICES NOW EFFECTIVE

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **SALE PRICES -- the longer the reinstatement period, the lower the**

price per year: 1 year \$35; 5 years \$95 SALE PRICES NOW EFFECTIVE

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

10. They're Back: Our SXM Grab Bags - How To Get Yours

Our famous SXM grab-bags offer you a variety of discontinued SXM logo clothing and other merchandise from our warehouse. We Priority Mail grab bag merchandise directly to any US postal address (US addresses only, sorry). They're filled with SXM t-shirts, tank tops, drink coozies, beach bags -- whatever is in stock. Price, just \$49 per grab bag including shipping. Send your payment via PayPal (or check if you don't like PayPal) to the email address [jeff\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff[at]jmbcommunications.com). Include your current address and shirt size and a letter saying your sex (M,F,Y for Youth). You can include multiples if you want various stuff in one box. Sorry, supplies are limited so we can't ship specific items or colors. These were enormously popular the last two years so order early for a good variety. No refunds/returns, so be sure to get your sizes correct.

Checks payable to JMB Communications may be mailed to JMB, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Again, we ship only to US addresses (50 states). Offer will end during October.

11. They're Back: Our SXM Euro Oval Stickers - How To Get Yours



Printed with green ink on bright white vinyl, varnished for long life, our copyrighted SXM euro ovals have been adorning cars on SXM and in the US for more than 15 years. We just got a new shipment so we're mailing these within two to three weeks of receiving your order. (Checks take longer to process.)

You can now get two for \$10 or five for \$15 mailed first class to your home in the US or Canada. You can pay for them by PayPal or by check. If you pay by PayPal, make sure the funds go to jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the comments section be sure to tell us what you're buying — two for \$10 or five for \$15, SXM euro ovals, and include your current correct mailing address and daytime phone number. If you pay by check, we accept US dollar checks only drawn on US banks payable to JMB Communications — sorry, no Canadian checks. You can mail them to SXM euro ovals, care of JMB Communications, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.

We will send out various designs on hand, all of which we've copyrighted. (Image is low-resolution; the stickers are beautiful.) This offer will end in mid-October. Order now.

12. Coming: More Great Jewelry Bargains for JMB Website Supporters Members Only

For several years, we've been able to offer JMB Website Supporters members rather astonishing pricing on limited-availability items from Zhaveri Jewelers, Caribbean Gems, and Oro Diamante Jewelers on Front Street in Philipsburg.

Now, Little Europe Jewelers, founded 40 years ago in SXM, has joined that prestigious group. You'll be seeing more about what they offer both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

Excellent offers will be available to all readers — but the best offers, as always, will be reserved for our JMB Website Supporters members. Think holiday shopping — those great offers are coming soon, so if you haven't yet joined JMB Website Supporters now is the time since our membership sale ends soon (see the beginning of this section).

13. Tropical Wave Restaurant Says French Side Government Is Wrecking Its Business

Tropical Wave restaurant at Le Galion beach, next to the site of the now demolished former Le Galion Beach hotel, has been battling with French authorities for the last few years.

The owner has been at the site for decades, paying taxes, providing a living for all of his 100% legal resident employees, and offering prices which are incredibly low — making the beach and the restaurant perhaps the single most popular weekend destination for hard-working St. Martin residents for many years.

Although earlier this year it seemed there was agreement with authorities to leave him alone, that isn't what happened, he says. Utility cables which are essential for the restaurant to continue operating have been severed -- he alleges it was intentional.

Here's [the full story](#).

14. Our Favorite SXM Clothing Optional Beaches & Resorts

We describe all of the island's clothing optional beaches in the Beaches section of our Everything St. Maarten website, www.everythingsxm.com. More beaches than you think do offer clothing optional bathing.

The most popular c/o beach is at the southern end of Orient beach in front of Club Orient, French Side, which has been clothing optional as long as anyone can remember — long before there were any structures anywhere on the beach.

The second and third most popular beaches are both stretches of Cupecoy, Dutch Side, one in front of the Shore Pointe condominiums and the other, "baby beach," just south of the monolith. It's accessible by a cement staircase; wear shoes that offer a good grip).

Both are available year long and services are usually available on both, mainly during high season in summer for Cupecoy and year-round from Club Orient. (Happy Bay, French Side, is also clothing optional and quite beautiful.)

There also two naturist resorts. The first is [Club Orient](#) itself, where rentals are available though they are usually in tight availability during high season. The other naturist resort is [Club Fantastico](#), overlooking Orient Bay from a hill nearby. Both are entirely clothing optional including dining. Click the links for more information, and tell them Jeff Berger's [Everything St. Martin website](#) sent you.

15. Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Offered to Vets & Active Duty Military

What's not to love about our new military memberships?

If you're an active duty, reserve, or retired member of the US military, you can upgrade to a military membership in JMB for just \$16.99 per year paid in full upon joining -- four full years at just \$67.96 total.

With a military membership, you can renew at that same fee quite probably forever. What's more, converting an existing membership to military or joining us as a military member *immediately gives you platinum status JMB membership*, entitling you to highlighted ads on our site to sell or rent out timeshares you own in St. Maarten or elsewhere and to future benefits yet to be announced.

To join us as a military member or to convert your current JMB membership to military, send us a check for \$67.96 payable to JMB Communications, mailed to PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. If you'd rather pay by PayPal, go to www.paypal.com and send the \$67.96 to Jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the Notes area, indicate that it's for a new (or renewal) military membership.

For verification, you'll need to email or fax us your military identification, with the serial number obliterated. The email address to send us your military ID info is support@JMBcommunications.com; please don't use Facebook for any personal communications. You can also fax it to 508-749-7898. *Be sure to tell us the email you'll be using when you sign up, so we can match the ID you send to your new membership.*

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at support@JMBcommunications.com.

16. Our 3rd 2016-2017 Season "Restaurant of the Week"

Pineapple Pete has long been one of Simpson Bay's most popular restaurants.

Although the restaurant serves a great deal of simple, delicious, reasonably priced fare, it is perhaps best known for its Lobster Thermidor. On weekends during high season, you'll see a conga line of waitstaff members bringing out Lobster Thermidor entrées to diners anxiously awaiting them.

Don't think you have to be a lobster lover to go to Pineapple Pete, however; theirs is one of the largest menus on the island, and their central location in the heart of Simpson Bay with parking in front makes getting there a snap.

If you're looking for sushi, check out Sushiiitto at Port de Plaisance on the Union Road. It's also owned by "Pete" Pierre Ferland, Pineapple Pete's owner/developer. You'll find consistently great stuff at both locations.

Definitely go and tell them we sent you -- they're long-time favorites. Both restaurants also give discounts to JMB members; see the Secret Site for details. Not a member? Stop spending more than you have to; see the beginning of this section and join JMB today during our Membership Sale.

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 beginning of this section.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 8/16)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 2/29/16)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/22/16)
Mario Bistro 9/5/16
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 9/12/16)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 7/25/16)
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)
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 7/25/16)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 7/25/16)
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 9/19/16)
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)

17. It's Fall: Time To Get Serious About SkyMed Membership

What SkyMed Does: 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.

How SkyMed Works: Like clockwork, you'll be taken from the hospital to a waiting aircraft by ambulance at SkyMed's expense; SkyMed makes all the arrangements and 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. There are no co-pays and no deductibles, either.

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

What's It Cost? *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, for a small membership fee; 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.

Compare The Types of SkyMed Memberships:

Comparing The Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, short term memberships are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- 34 countries total. The advantage of short-term memberships is that they are very inexpensive, just about \$9 per day per person maximum of about \$18 per day. The disadvantage is that they only cover you for the short term you are traveling; when they expire, your protection disappears. When you're ready to travel again, you must reapply for a new short-term membership. Although the process is quick, you still must be medically approved and at some point, that may not be possible. Bear in mind that many of us travel more than once or twice a year, even if it's only a few hundred miles from home to visit friends or relatives, which is why we recommend annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships instead of short-term memberships. *You do not want your protection to end.*

Second, both annual and multiyear SkyMed memberships are essentially permanent coverage. Once you've been approved and as long as you continue to pay your membership fee on time, your membership cannot be discontinued as a result of advancing age or declining health — two critically important advantages that ensure you have coverage when you need it most.

Third, Ultimate memberships cover multiple years and provide protection worldwide. The only exceptions are places like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, North Korea — places no wise person would visit anyway. Ultimate memberships also offer the greatest breadth of coverage. You can see a complete list of all the features and benefits of these coverages [here](#).

Fourth, if you're an American or Canadian ex-pat living in St. Maarten or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SKYMED Takes you Home protection in the form of an ex-pat membership.

In addition to everything else he does, Jeff Berger has been a SKYMED rep for over 14 years. He'll be happy to

answer any questions you may have; just phone the office any weekday at 508-747-8281, or email him at Jeff@GetSkyMed.com. He generally returns calls and messages within 24 hours. To see [online frequently asked questions, go here](#). You can also see his site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

JMB members get serious discounts on all multiyear SKYMED memberships. If you're not already a JMB member, join today and take advantage of those discounts -- everything is on sale!

For more on JMB memberships, look here:

[New JMB memberships](#) -- **SALE PRICES One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available)**
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml

[Renewal JMB memberships](#) -- **SALE PRICES -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**
1 year \$35; 5 years \$95
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

[JMB Membership Reinstatements](#) -- **SALE PRICES -- the longer the reinstatement period, the lower the price per year: 1 year \$35; 5 years \$95**
<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.](#)

18. No Age Limit to Join or Renew SkyMed

What's the upper age limit to join SkyMed? There isn't any: apply today regardless of age.

What's the upper age limit to renew your existing SkyMed membership? *There isn't any.* Just pay your SkyMed renewal on time and your membership will continue regardless of your health or age at the time of your renewal. There is no membership cutoff for advancing age or declining health, unlike so-called competitive programs. *And the price of your renewal membership will not increase due to declining health or advancing age.* SkyMed Takes You Home® -- what else matters?

19. Q and A About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 9/19/16)

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.

20. 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](#).

21. 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*.

22. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. This is scheduled to complete an update shortly.

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

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

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

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi>, select *2016 St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret>. If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at support@jmbcommunications.com

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

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

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

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