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#1065 --- Monday, 9/26/2016 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Webite Login

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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Add <u>jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com</u> to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

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

- -- Jack Parker, Peg Leg Pub, Passes Away
- -- Hurricane Season Staying Busy
- -- Ground Broken for 776-Room "Pearl of China" Hotel/Apartment Complex Bel Air Beach
- -- Despite Pending Sapphire Ownership Change, Verdiers Sending Out AMF Notices
- -- Last Chance: Membership Sale Ends This Thursday, September 29
- -- Blue Mall Gets The Blues as Stores Flee In Droves
- -- Big Changes Coming to IZI
- -- Should You Buy Car Rental Insurance?
- -- Highlights of Our Growing "Five Million Smiles" Vacation Giveaway; How To Enter

- -- No Age Limit to Join or Renew SkyMed; SkyMed "Takes You Home" After Critical Illness/Injury
- -- Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Offered to Vets & Active Duty Military
- -- Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
- -- Where to Get Discounts on Car Rentals

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/3/2017 2/10/2017 Week 5 Royal Palm Beach Resort 2 Bdr. 2 Bath Unit King and Queen Bed, plus 1 Queen Size Sofa bed. Unit will sleep 6. Fully furnished unit, 3 TV's, all kitchen appliances plus coffee maker, blender, toaster and all cooking items. Swimming Pool on premises, Golds Gym, Deli, Hair Dresser and other shops. Pool has swim up bar and there is a covered outdoor restaurant. All you have to do is bring your clothes. There are larger grocery stores close by and many places to eat that you can walk to. Ocean Front and out the back door you may watch the big boats come in, quite an experience. \$1,775.00 302-253-8555 Mary Ann gwollter@comcast.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/13/2017 1/27/2017 Week 2 and 3 Diamond Resort Royal Palm Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom 5 th Floor condo with excellent views of Simpson Bay. Unit has large living room and dining area, porch and full kitchen. 3 large screen TV's, and free internet access in unit. Resort has free gym use, pool and many activities. 5000.00 per week Judith. 440-285-9804 jlutzke@yahoo.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group 205834172765083

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

Section One: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather Go To This Section

1. Hurricane Season Staying Busy

- 2. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)
- 3. Booking Airfares? Use Our Low-Fare Grid
- 4. Take Advantage of Your Free Membership in the SkyMed Travel Club

Section Two: Accommodations (Hotels, Inns, Timeshares) Go To This Section

5. Ground Broken for 776-Room "Pearl of China" Hotel/Apartment Complex on Bel Air Beach

- 6. How The Upcoming SXM Election Could Derail Pearl of China
- 7. Despite Pending Sapphire Ownership Change, Verdiers Sending Out AMF Notices
- 8. Rent SXM Condos Directly From Timeshare Owners on Our Site

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

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

10. September Member Benefits Update: Island Activities

Section Four: Island Go To This Section

11. Last Call: Membership Sale Ends This Thursday, September 29

- 12. Blue Mall Gets The Blues as Stores Flee In Droves
- 13. SXM's Most Eclectic Restaurants
- 14. Where to Get Discounts on Car Rentals
- 15. Which Timeshare Is Best for You?
- 16. Big Changes Coming to IZI Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay
- 17. Should You Buy Car Rental Insurance?
- 18. Chain Restaurants on SXM
- 19. Best Place to Get Sundries
- 20. Shoe / Handbag Repairs
- 21. Hiking in SXM

22. Announcing Highlights of Our Growing "Five Million Smiles" Vacation Giveaway; How To Enter

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

24. Time To Get Serious About SkyMed

- 25. No Age Limit to Join or Renew SkyMed
- 26. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
- 27. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
- 28. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
- 29. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

30. Jack Parker, Peg Leg Pub, Passes Away

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

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

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

Now a growing list of 260+ benefits... and more coming soon.

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered: scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Hurricane Season Staying Busy

The 2016 Atlantic hurricane season continues to stay busy. So far, the only effects of passing storms on SXM have been rain and wind; no significant damage.

There is a chance this could change soon, however. On Thursday, meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather Services, our go-to source of Caribbean weather information, reported that a developing system over West Africa could be shunted westward toward the Lesser Antilles this week if a high pressure system develops over the central Atlantic again as expected. Earlier in the season, such a system sent other storms toward the Antilles.

To keep posted on what's happening, see the next article.

2. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Now Four Key Sources)

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 <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>, which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- d) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

See significant National Hurricane Center Outlooks and Advisories as they relate both to SXM and to the US East and Gulf coasts 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 .

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

3. Booking Airfares? Take Advantage of Our Low-Fare Grid

If you're booking airfares, be sure to take advantage of our Low-Fare Grid. You'll find it on our members-only secret website for <u>JMB Website Supporters</u> exclusively. The Grid features airfares you should expect to pay from about 100 cities in the US, some in Canada, and a few overseas — so you know what to look for when you book.

Fares have been a bit lower recently than published, but we expect them to increase this fall thanks to increased travel and also in response to geopolitics.

4. Take Advantage of <u>Your</u> 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

5. Ground Broken for 776-Room "Pearl of China" Hotel/Apt. Complex on Bel Air Beach...

If you're one of the many people who opposes the Pearl of China project on Bel Air beach, don't let last week's groundbreaking fool you. It was ceremonial -- *not* the beginning of construction which officials say should be next year.

Port St. Maarten, previously the harbor group of companies on Dutch St. Maarten, threw its support behind the project — but it seems to throw support behind any project that could increase port traffic. By contrast, the vast majority of residents on both sides of the island appear strongly opposed to Pearl of China.

Our opinion: The Pearl of China project is a Chinese trade center masquerading as a hotel. It's designed to lobby for and promote Chinese business not only in the Caribbean, but throughout the hemisphere. It has virtually nothing to do with tourism and, in our opinion, will do nothing to increase tourism since it's a largely self-contained venture. We hope it never happens if this assessment is correct.

See next story.

6. ... How The Upcoming SXM Election Could Derail Pearl of China

Let's see what the result of the Dutch Side elections will be; those elections could well spell political doom for the

project's proponents. If that happens, the election has the potential to derail Pearl of China permanently.

Here's what to do if you want to write about this project in the SXM press, and make your views known to newly elected island officials...

Letters to the Editor at the Today Newspaper: todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor at The Daily Herald: editorial@thedailyherald.com

7. Despite Pending Sapphire Ownership Change, Verdiers Sending Out AMF/SMF Notices

Some peculiar stuff — all of it to be expected — is going on now at Sapphire.

First, several weeks ago the Verdier family, which still owns the resort, sent out Supplemental Maintenance Fee notices to timeshare owners. Most of the long-overdue upgrades, including new appliances, are supposed to be handled by annual maintenance fees but weren't, which makes the legitimacy of the Supplemental Maintenance Fees suspect from the get-go. A big question is what exactly did the Verdiers do with all of the annual maintenance fees they've collected over the years — most timeshare owners will tell you that in their experience, very little maintenance was done at Sapphire which led to RCI yanking the rug out from under them, numerous timeshare owner complaints, and surprise inspections by Dutch Side officials who cited a number of problems.

Second, Annual Maintenance Fee notices have now been set out by the Verdiers. Since they own the resort (still, for now), they are entitled to send these out but the question is what exactly are they going to do with the money? The court in St. Maarten has ruled that the Verdiers must give up ownership of the resort to Bruno Sitbon since he has a valid purchase and sale agreement. Details will be dictated by the court. The court's decision should include provisions for exactly what happens to all of the funds the Verdiers are now collecting. They can't just pocket them as some irate timeshare owners have alleged they've done in the past.

The point is, there have already been more than enough debacles on the island related to timesharing — the island doesn't need more. So far, the judicial process is working in favor of timeshare owners, but all of this must be watched very closely by all parties -- and most especially by the government -- to make sure the Verdiers don't attempt to make an end run which screws timeshare owners once again.

Tens of thousands of SXM timeshare owners have pulled out. Let's not let any more developers cause any more debacles....

8. 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 can expect to get the best deal. Check it out.

SECTION 3: Member

9. "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.

10. 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 (September) 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 a recent 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. (Members only; username & password required).

SECTION 4: Island

11.

LAST CALL!

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

=====

Sale on new, renewal, and reinstated JMB memberships -- as little as \$49 or less

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

HERE ARE ALL OF OUR SALE PRICES:

Although our regular pricing for JMB memberships increased last week, you can still take advantage of our low sale prices until Thurs. 9/29. 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml SALE PRICES END 9/29

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 END 9/29

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- SALE PRICES -- the longer the reinstatement period, the lower the price per year: 1 year \$35; 5 years \$95 SALE PRICES END 9/29
http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

12. Blue Mall Gets The Blues as Stores Flee In Droves

JMB Website Supporters members visiting Blue Mall this past week report it is a ghost town. In response to high rentals and few customers, tenants are fleeing in droves, multiple members tell us.

Blue Mall had aspirations of being a major island retailer but never got there. Store prices have been astronomical; its location is inconvenient for many tourists; and people don't come to SXM to shop for clothes, which they can get at home for far less money.

As we reported, Marriott or a similar hotel property is said to be ready to take over much of the building soon. If you were planning to do some shopping at Blue Mall, check Le West Indies in Marigot instead. Even with currency differences, it's cheaper.

13. SXM's Most Eclectic Restaurants

By our definition, an eclectic restaurant is one that offers a wide spectrum of culinary items from different genres.

Perhaps the best example in SXM is Vesna Taverna. Vesna herself is Greek and Macedonian and her husband is French. Most nights in season they serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and authentic homemade bagels, a huge ethnic treat, are included with many breakfasts. The menu contains American, Greek, and French food as well as a selection of seafood from the Caribbean and beyond. Vesna is located just north of the Dutch side drawbridge on Simpson Bay lagoon.

Another eclectic restaurant is Big Fish in Dawn Beach, on the road to Oyster Bay Beach Resort and Mr. Busby's Beach Bar. Big Fish is a great place for fish as well as steaks, other seafood, and even sushi appetizers which, as we've said many times, are quite delicious. That's Japanese, American, French, and Caribbean.

Another great restaurant in the same "Culinary Village" area is Canoa, diagonally across from Big Fish in the Great House Marina. It offers Continental dining with a Caribbean flair and the fusion is obvious throughout much of the menu. Canoa's food is terrific and we must say that Sherman Marten, owner and chef, really knows his stuff and has put together a wonderful dining spot. Highly recommended.

The last of our eclectic dining spots is the Mr. Busby's/Daniel's by the Sea dining empire. We call it an empire because it's a great place for breakfast and lunch at Mr. Busby's and superb seaside Italian dining under the palms at Daniel's by the Sea every night — the restaurant never closes except if a hurricane is about to hit. If that's not enough, they also offer Island Pizza from next door which makes fresh authentic thin crust pizza with a boatload of topping options — we think it's the the best pizza on the island. You can do take out here during the day and at night and if that's where you're headed, also check out the rotisserie chicken offerings at Great House Marina. The chicken is succulent, flavorful, and big, with lots of sides. We should add that Busby's also has its own lobster pool, something you won't find at every Italian restaurant or beach bar on the island — so the lobster couldn't possibly be fresher. Definitely try any or all of these outstanding restaurants on your next trip to SXM.

14. Where to Get Discounts on Car Rentals

Three of the 260+ discounts and benefits offered to JMB Website Supporters members are discounts on car rentals.

Ever since JMB Website Supporters was founded in 2002, it has offered discounts at <u>Tropical-Tropicana</u> car rental which now boasts an almost entirely new, sleek rental fleet. In addition to tropical Tropicana, we also offer discounts at <u>Leisure Car Rental</u>, which is female owned; at <u>Thrifty Car Rental</u>, for those who prefer a global provider; and at <u>Rodael Car Rental</u>, which caters to cruise ship passengers.

For details on these and many other discounts exclusively for our JMB Website Supporters members, please log in to the secret website using the orange login box on every page of www.everythingSXM.com.

15. Which Timeshare Is Best for You?

Whether you're looking to buy a week of timesharing on St. Maarten or simply rent one, a great way to learn the amenities of each property is to check out the timeshare condos for rent/sale page on our www.everythingSXM.com website, one of the biggest and most popular of all SXM sites.

Our members, many of whom are timeshare owners, include descriptions of their properties and resort amenities in their rental ads.

If you have questions about any SXM timeshare property, go to our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u> and ask — many timeshare owners visit that page daily and are happy to help.

If you'd like to place an ad for timeshare rental in St. Maarten or anywhere else worldwide, join <u>JMB Website Supporters</u>; you'll see information about our current membership sale at the beginning of this section.

16. Big Changes Coming to iZi Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay

David Foini — who many of you will remember from his exquisite upscale La Gondola Restaurant in days gone by — never settles for what's working. He is a lifelong driven perfectionist who likes excitement, challenge, and change for the better.

David owns iZi in Simpson Bay, opposite Pineapple Pete. iZi is one of the island's very best authentic Italian Restaurants.

David also doesn't like people to give away secrets, so we're not going to tell you everything he has planned for the coming season. Suffice it to say that it's highly probable your favorite recipes will stay on the menu but don't be surprised if David makes many menu improvements: perfectionists do that.

You'll also find a new look at the restaurant when it reopens from its annual closure soon, adding to comfort, convenience, pleasure -- and of course taste.

Ever since it opened a number of years ago, we've thought iZi was an outstanding restaurant -- not to be missed. Add it to your priorities on your next SXM visit.

More stories follow.

Got SkyMed Questions?

Phone or Email Jeff: (508) 747-8281 jeff@getskymed.com

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling, saving you upwards of \$45,000 or more -- payable in cash in advance if you aren't a member -- were you to try to set it all up yourself. What else matters? Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Call any weekday during normal business hours, Eastern Time.

17. Should You Buy Car Rental Insurance?

Many credit cards offer protection when you use them to rent vehicles. Before selecting any credit card for use when renting cars in SXM, read the detailed information in the cardmember agreement to see what's covered and where. If you feel there's adequate coverage on your credit card in SXM, go ahead — but you may want to call the company directly to get the facts straight.

You might also contact your car insurance company to see if they provide any coverage for rental vehicles you drive — but be sure to ask whether that coverage extends outside the USA or Canada.

18. Chain Restaurants on SXM

If you've been to Aruba or Miami, you know what chain restaurants are all about. There, places like Chili's and dozens of others abound.

Family chain restaurants are conspicuously absent in SXM, which has always been one of its charms.

The Fast Food genre of restaurants is here in abundance, however. KFC, Pizza Hut, dominoes, Burger King, and McDonald's are here. If you want chain food, we think Dominoes is the best of the lot. (Besides, the Dominoes franchise was started in SXM many moons ago by a gentleman from the US — in fact he's hands-on and sometimes makes pizza in some of his restaurants. Domino's also offers discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; learn about membership in the first article in this section.

Many other restaurants on the island offer fine food. Here are a number of our prior Restaurant of the Week selections. Our Restaurant of the Week feature returns next week.

Sill not a JMB member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see 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 9/16)

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

19. Best Place To Get Sundries

If you find yourself in need of things you normally pick up at a CVS — such as shaving cream, bug repellent, shampoo, razors, bandages, deodorant, aspirin, and many others, go to Orange Grove pharmacy on the Union Rd., Dutch side, across the street from Harley-Davidson. Prices are great, and so is attention to detail. Orange Grove Pharmacy also offers JMB members discounts; see the Secret Site for details.

20. Shoe / Handbag Repairs

Early during a recent trip, Jeff was walking on a beach when a sandal strap came unhinged. He asked around and found a very convenient shoe repair shop off the Union Road about 60 yards south of Burger King on the Dutch side. The place was cheap, reasonably fast (though you usually are not be able to wait for a repair) and friendly. The work lasted a reasonable amount of time. They also repair handbags and other leather goods.

21. Hiking in SXM

If you're interested in hiking, get highly professional island maps created by Michal Kasprowski, which we've mentioned here previously. The maps are big and sturdy enough to be used as wall hangings (framable prints) as well as on the road. They include all known roads as well as bike trails, hiking trails, diving areas, and much more. These are the current version of maps we sold direct to our members a number of years ago. You can now buy them directly from the publisher, shipping included, for less than we had to charge. They're great maps -- we would never

travel without them. Get them at www.midok.com.

As a JMB member, you are entitled to a discount; see the Secret Site for details. If you're still not a JMB member, see the beginning of this section for more information. Membership is now on sale but the sale ends this coming Thursday, 9/29.

22. Highlights of Our Growing "Five Million Smiles" Vacation Giveaway; How To Enter

Most readers now are busy finalizing plans for their winter getaways — just as we're closing in on finalizing many more prize additions to our upcoming Five Million Smiles giveaway.

The **Grand Prize** is going to be a week at one of the island's most fabulous villas — its name will be announced very shortly.

We'll also be announcing more vacation prizes soon, but here are those we can announce now:

- Eight days and seven nights at <u>La Vista Resort or La Vista Beach</u>;
- Eight days and seven nights in a brand-new two bedroom suite at Simpson Bay Resort; and
- Four days, three nights in boutique hotel style suites in the main building at Oyster Bay Beach Resort.
- More vacations are to come and will be announced soon.

There are also many prizes to come including a **helicopter ride** for the grand prize winner (from Corail Helicopters, Grand Case Airport) which we'll detail soon.

Many dinners for two are also offered for the Grand Prize winner, including:

- Dinner for two at award-winning Chef Dino Jagtiani's <u>Temptation Restaurant</u>;
- Dinner for two at both <u>Toppers and Toppers By The Sea Restaurants</u>;
- Dinner for two at the exquisite new Mario Bistro in Cupecoy;
- Dinner for two at <u>Infinity Restaurant at Oyster Bay Beach Resort</u>;
- Dinner for two at SPIGA Restaurant in Grand Case.
- \$50 Gift Certificate for **Avantika Restaurant**
- Dinner for two at Pineapple Pete Restaurant
- Dinner for two at Sushiitto Restaurant
- More dinners and a number of Activities are to come.

You can enter now if you are a direct (not pass-along) subscriber to SXM Weekly News... Click the link to enter now:

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

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

23. Reminder: Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Offered to American Vets

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 <u>immediately gives you platinum status JMB</u> <u>membership</u>, 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 .

24. 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, <u>SkyMed is your free ticket home</u> 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. <u>Enroll today while it's fresh in your mind</u>. 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

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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.

25. 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?

26. 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. <u>Multiyear memberships give you more benefits than annual memberships but cost less when paid at inception</u>. They're quite a bargain.

Q. Is there a best time to buy?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Got Other Questions?

If you have questions about SkyMed not answered above, email <u>jeff@getskymed.com</u> and Jeff will get back to you or phone him at 508-747-8281. Please also include your phone number and best time to call; he'll be in touch. *Please use the subject "SkyMed Inquiry" in your email.*

SkyMed Takes You Home®; What else matters?

For more, see skymed.com/jmbspecial (JMB members) or www.getskymed.com (non-JMB members) or email Jeff directly at jeff@getskymed.com with the subject SkyMed. If you include your phone number, he'll call you about SkyMed as well, to answer any questions you may have including all pricing options.

You can also call SkyMed directly (in Scottsdale AZ, Mountain standard time year round.) Their number is 1-800-475-9633; ask for Nan. If you're a JMB member, say so and have your membership card ready. <u>All multiyear plans offer major discounts to JMB members</u>. Please tell them you're calling because you heard about them from Jeff Berger.

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

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

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

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

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

29. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

30. Jack Parker, Peg Leg Pub, Passes Away

Jack Parker, the entrepreneur who moved to SXM to retire with his wife Linda a number of years ago and bought Peg Leg Pub in Simpson Bay to prevent the owner from closing his favorite watering hole, passed away last week.

After buying the pub, he concluded that the island needed a real steakhouse -- so he converted Peg Leg to Peg Leg Pub and Steakhouse, later moving the business to Port de Plaisance. It became one of the island's top restaurants for a number of years. Jack returned home to Arizona several years ago and Linda later closed Peg Leg,

Our condolences to Jack's family; the entire island greatly misses him. This obituary is from the *Arizona Republic* newspaper.

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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