

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

#1066 --- Monday, 10/3/2016 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

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

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

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

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

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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

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

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have well over 270,000 readers around the world...**

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in.

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

- Matthew Passes Far South of SXM But Still Brings Rain & Wind***
- 776-Room "Pearl of China" Complex May Be a Runaway Freight Train***
- Sapphire Ownership Change Not Expected to be Instantaneous...***
- What Should Sapphire Timeshare Owners Do? Our Opinion***
- SXM Election Creates Yet Another Coalition Government; Is Stability Possible?***
- Restaurant Changes Coming***
- Want To Escape The Cold & Run Your Own Restaurant in SXM?***
- Our Vacation Giveaway Adds More Vacations & Dinners for Two; How To Enter***
- Reminder: Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Offered to Vets***

-- **Seaweed Update**

-- **Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue**

-- **Time To Get Serious About SkyMed**

-- **Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation**

-- **JMB Members are Welcomed to Our Website Supporters FB Page**

27 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 1/14/2017 1/21/2017 Week 2 Atrium Resort Studio, 6th floor, unit 600. This room has full kitchen and sleeps two. \$800 Georgie 204-298-5130 Andgeo89@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/5/2017 3/12/2017 week 9 Simpson Bay Resort Bougainvilla building, One bedroom ,sleeps four top floor,new elevators \$9,500.00 Tony 781-738-6341 merlino.tony@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. Matthew Passes Far South of SXM But Still Brings Rain & Wind
2. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)
3. Low Season Airline Schedules in Effect
4. Take Advantage of Your Free Membership in the SkyMed Travel Club

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

5. 776-Room "Pearl of China" Complex *May* Be a Runaway Freight Train
6. Sapphire Ownership Change Not Expected to be Instantaneous...
7. What Should Sapphire Timeshare Owners Do? Our Opinion
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. October Member Benefits Update: Car Rentals

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

11. SXM Election Creates Yet Another Coalition Government; Is Stability Possible?
12. Going Somewhere? Ferries Available to Anguilla and St. Barths; St. Barths Ferry Coming
13. Restaurant Changes Coming
14. Want To Escape The Cold & Run a Restaurant in SXM?
15. Our Vacation Giveaway Adds More Vacations & Dinners for Two; How To Enter
16. Update on the Price of Gas
17. Reminder: Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Offered to Vets & Active Duty Military
18. Seaweed Update
19. Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue
20. Restaurant of the Week
21. Time To Get Serious About SkyMed
22. No Age Limit to Join or Renew SkyMed
23. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
24. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
25. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
26. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News
27. JMB Members are Welcomed to Our Website Supporters FB Page

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://everythingxsm.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. Matthew Passes Far South of SXM But Still Brings Rain & Wind

When Matthew crossed the far southern Windward islands late last week, it was a tropical storm intensifying into what would become, briefly, a category five major hurricane. Since it was several hundred miles south of SXM, only its outer bands affected the island. SXM received a fair amount of rain and some wind, but nothing the island isn't accustomed to.

Please see story 19 regarding Chikungunya, Dengue Fever, and Zika for a related story.

As of Saturday when this story was written, Matthew was expected to make a right turn and move over or near Jamaica, traverse far Eastern Cuba, then hang out in the Bahamas while it decided where to go from there. If you're anywhere on the US East Coast or the Canadian Maritimes, from Florida northward, keep track of this storm.

See next story.

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 [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), 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: <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. Low Season Airfares in Effect

Although current airfares to SXM are decent, they certainly aren't extraordinary. Airlines are still Hell-bent on making major profits through fees and relatively stable fares despite the fact that it is low season in the Caribbean and jet fuel prices are still at rock-bottom levels.

Technically, high season begins December 15. Although Thanksgiving is busy and so is the period from Christmas to New Year's, business drops off a bit on SXM during the first couple of weeks of January, then tends to pick up and stay busy through the end of March and into Carnival season.

We wish the story about airfares were different. Perhaps airlines are hedging their bets because of uncertainty about the US election.

4. 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

5. 776-Room "Pearl of China" Complex May Be a Runaway Freight Train

Before the St. Maarten election early last week, we conjectured that politicians supporting the massive (and massively disliked) Pearl of China project would be thrown out of office and that other politicians might try to derail it.

Although that could still happen, several people we spoke with on the island said last week it was highly unlikely the project could be stopped thanks to island law.

"Pearl" project development was highly secretive. When finally announced, officials said it was approved and ready to go — a fait accompli. No public hearings, no environmental impact studies that we know of, no nothing — just a big deal made behind closed doors without public knowledge or consent.

The project will plunk a huge monolith on the Western end of Bel Air beach, several hundred yards away from the Bel Air Beach timeshare resort. Access will be from the roundabout near the Learning Unlimited school, not by the road near the Bel Air resort.

The majority of rooms on the property will be apartments, though there will be plenty of hotel rooms as well. There will also be a showroom which will be primarily used by Chinese companies exhibiting wares to prospective customers from throughout the Caribbean and beyond. The showroom is not foreseen to be a convention hall which would book Western conventions; *that* would have been a huge boon to the island economy. And the apartments are expected to be rented to Chinese business people who will be fanning out across the region and beyond to sell wares from China.

In other words, it's a Chinese beachhead. The company developing the project is owned mostly by the government of China.

In our opinion, this project will put huge demands on infrastructure and on the environment and deliver little in the way of tangible benefit to the island. It will not increase the number of tourists (it won't deliver the one million tourists over 10 years from China that the Chinese predict); it will not bring new business to Front Street; it is unlikely to have a positive effect on island restaurants since the property is expected to have restaurants within its complex; and it's also a giant box completely devoid of any semblance of creativity or attractiveness.

The Bel Air Community is beyond furious about Pearl of China, as are many others. See their comments [here](#). Almost nobody likes it, but at this point in the opinion of people we talked to it is essentially a runaway train that is unlikely to be stopped. We hope we're wrong and as always, we'll keep you posted.

6. Sapphire Ownership Change Not Expected to be Instantaneous...

Although the court in St. Maarten has already ruled that ownership of Sapphire Beach Resort will be moving from the Verdier family to Bruno Sitbon [written protests to the contrary from the Verdiers notwithstanding], details of the ownership change have not yet been completed. Based upon what we've seen over the years from the St. Maarten court system, it wouldn't surprise us if it takes a few months (or more) for the changeover to be completed.

If you're visiting St. Maarten this winter, don't expect any major changes beyond what we've already reported — new appliances and a general cleanup.

As soon as we hear specifics, will publish them in a regular issue of *SXM Weekly News* and to our JMB Website Supporters members (see story #29.)

Please see the next story.

7. What Should Sapphire Timeshare Owners Do? Our Opinion

Since we are not lawyers, we don't ever give legal advice. So what follows is simply our opinion in response to many requests from Sapphire timeshare owners asking whether they should pay current bills from the Verdiers, who remain the current owners and developers of the Sapphire beach resort. Of course you and only you can decide what to do.

If we were still timeshare owners at Sapphire, we would pay the bills. At this moment, the Verdiers remain the legal owners of the resort and they can bill their timeshare owners at will, following their normal practice.

If you want legal advice, we suggest you contact lawyers on the island and ask them for their opinion.

This is the firm that is handling the current case by the Sitbon family against the Verdiers: <http://www.bzselaw.com/>

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 the best deals. 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. October Member Benefits Update: Car Rentals

JMB Website Supporters currently offers JMB members more than 260 discounts and other benefits across the island and beyond, with many more coming soon.

Among our most heavily used benefits are discounts at key car-rental companies. Here they are, in no special order:

a) [Tropical-Tropicana](#) Car Rental was our original car-rental partner, starting some 20 years ago. Headquartered at Baker's Suites boutique hotel, Simpson Bay, Tropical has an almost entirely new fleet with just a few older cars to accommodate those who request them. The fleet also includes vans to accommodate larger parties and events. To see the discount they offer, please check the discounts master index in our JMB Website Supporters members only secret website.

b) [Rodael Car Rental](#) caters primarily to cruise ship passengers and has provided a discount to that portion of our audience for many years. To see the discount they offer, please check the discounts master index in our JMB Website Supporters members only secret website.

c) [Leisure Car Rental](#), located close to SXM Airport, is female owned — with Jacqueline and Jimmy in charge and doing an excellent job as always. To see the discount they offer, which is substantial, please check the discounts master index in our JMB Website Supporters members only secret website.

d) [Thrifty Car Rental](#), located on Airport Road, is the largest car rental business on the island with a fleet numbering in excess of about 600 vehicles of all descriptions including luxury. To see the discount they offer, please check the discounts master index in our JMB Website Supporters members only secret website.

Use the above hyperlinks to get to these partner websites. However, you will only find specifics of the discounts on our members-only JMB Website Supporters secret website. If you're still not a member, *pay less* on your next vacation; [here's more information](#).

Many more discounts are coming. Stay tuned.

For details on all the above, see the Discounts Master Index in the Secret Site. (Members only; username & password required).

SECTION 4: Island

**New, Renewal, and Reinstated
JMB memberships
as little as \$59
or less--
Renewals & Reinstatements are Much Less.**

**Get 260+ Island Discounts
And Other Benefits
at Low Pricing Now:**

SEE OUR LOW MEMBERSHIP PRICES:

New JMB memberships -- 1 year \$59; 3 years only \$95

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships -- 1 year \$39; 4 years \$89
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- Great low prices! Click the link!
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

11. SXM Election Creates Yet Another Coalition Government; Is Stability Possible?

For the last several years, parliamentary elections on the Dutch side of the island have enabled some of the island's more than a dozen political parties to create coalition governments.

As a consequence of behind the scenes political maneuvering by some of the more powerful parties, some recent coalitions have collapsed as party allegiances changed.

Idealists were hoping that the current election would yield a majority government which would bring governance stability to the Dutch side.

The elections held last week resulted in a new coalition government featuring, among others, Theo Heyliger of the United Peoples Party and William Marlin of the National Alliance party. Both of these seasoned political figures say they [will work hard to ensure ongoing stability](#). See more [here](#).

In the face of many challenges, the island badly needs Dutch Side government stability.

12. Going Somewhere? Ferries Available to Anguilla and St. Barths; Statia Ferry Coming

SXM has become something of a hub in the Caribbean with many flights every day to neighboring islands.

But sometimes, people prefer ferry travel. There are currently inexpensive ferry rides from Marigot to Anguilla; more expensive ferries from Oyster Pond to St. Barths; and a ferry to the somewhat more distant island of Statia is supposed to be coming next year; here's that story: <http://tinyurl.com/ju88gtd>

There have also been boat rides offered from the Pelican Marina to Saba for many years, but plane trips are probably more favored. The trip over isn't bad, but the trip back is against the current and it can be rather rough.

13. Restaurant Changes Coming

Fall is the season when most restaurant changes tend to occur, and that's happening right now.

We're going to be gathering restaurant information during the next six weeks and we'll publish all the changes in one article coming up in mid-November, when thousands of people will be preparing for imminent island trips.

There's one change that might involve you directly; see next story.

14. Want To Escape The Cold & Run a Restaurant in SXM?

Have you always dreamed about moving to St. Maarten, retiring there, or opening your own business on the island?

There's an opportunity available right now that may be of real interest to you. Of course, you'll have to get papers to

work on the island which can take some time. That solved, this might be a great opportunity:

It's in existing restaurant at a popular resort within easy walking distance of the American University of the Caribbean Medical School in Cupecoy. The restaurant has plenty of seats and a loyal following, a modern kitchen, and outstanding views which are picture-postcard memorable. Rent is cheap, only about \$1000 per month though you can weigh it to be lower in low season and a bit higher in high season, or it can simply be a set percentage of revenues.

A number of other resorts, many apartments, and many condominiums in the Cupecoy area give this restaurant a ready-made audience that's growing rapidly. You can use your promotional ability to get an even wider audience. On-site private parking is available in a gated, well-lit lot, too.

For more information, email JMBweb@JMBcommunications.com with the subject Cupecoy Restaurant; your inquiry will be sent to the owner for response.

15. Our Vacation Giveaway Adds More Vacations & Dinners for Two; How To Enter

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

One of our Grand Prizes 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 (the list has grown since we last published it):

- Eight days and seven nights at [La Vista Resort or La Vista Beach](#);
- Eight days and seven nights in a brand-new two bedroom suite at [Simpson Bay Resort](#);
- Eight days and seven nights at [The Summit 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). There's also a Free tour of Toppers' Rhum Distillery (including free samples, if you're old enough). We'll detail more prizes soon.

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

- Dinner for two at award-winning Chef Dino Jagtiani's [Temptation Restaurant](#);
- Dinner for two at the exquisite new [Mario Bistro](#) in Cupecoy;
- Dinner for two at [SPIGA Restaurant in Grand Case](#);
- Dinner for two at [Infinity Restaurant at Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#);
- \$50 Gift Certificate for [Avantika Restaurant](#);
- Dinner for two at [Toppers Restaurant](#);
- Dinner for two at [Pineapple Pete Restaurant](#)
- Dinner for two at [Sushiitto Restaurant](#)
- Dinner for two at Lal's Curry In a Hurry Indian Restaurant;
- Dinner for two at Cheri's Cafe (limit \$50);
- Dinner for two at The Boathouse;
- More dinners and a number of Activities are to come.

You can enter now if you're a direct (not pass-along) subscriber to **SXM Weekly News**... Click the link to enter now: http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

Entries from pass-along readers will not be accepted; Subscribe directly now by clicking "Free Newsletters" at www.everythingsexm.com. *Only direct subscribers are eligible to win -- and subscriptions are free.*

16. Update on The Price of Gas in SXM

Despite the gasoline pipeline rupture a few weeks ago in the Southeast, the price of gas in many parts of the US continues to hover around \$2/gallon, if you shop around.

Unfortunately, the price of gas in SXM figured in either Euros per liter or Antillean guilders per liter, depending on the side of the island, remains high. Regardless of whether you're adept at converting island prices to dollars per gallon, the cost of gas on SXM is still way higher than in the US and it'll stay that way.

17. Reminder: Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Available for 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 *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, 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 address 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 .

18. Seaweed Update

If you've seen recent beach pictures from our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook site](#), you no doubt know already that the seaweed situation now is no big deal; photos indicate no significant issues and hopefully it will stay that way.

Even when seaweed appears on shore, resorts remove it early so you get a fine beach day without seaweed worries.

19. Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue

Zika is the mosquito borne illness that is currently the most asked about among tourists, for obvious reasons. The disease itself is mild and is not even detected among the vast majority of people who get it, unlike both Chikungunya and Dengue Fever.

As you know, Zika can cause severe birth defects including microcephaly -- apparently if the infection occurs in the first trimester. Although rains provide egg laying areas for mosquitoes, both governments here have been relentless in communicating the necessity to eliminate standing water and they have been quite successful. There have also been frequent foggings to kill mosquitoes and their larvae; the efforts are similar to what you've seen near Miami.

If you want to go to the Caribbean and you intend to get pregnant or already are, ask your obstetrician.

20. Restaurant of the Week: The Boathouse

First off, we have not been to the Boathouse in a number of years. But good friends of ours, a number of them, are

now going regularly to this conveniently located Simpson Bay landmark and they're raving about it.

All we'll say is that chief honcho Cleo has been running the business for a number of years and our friends say she knows her stuff — and the Boathouse is about to start offering discounts to JMB members (it's one of a number of new discounts we'll shortly be adding to the Discounts Master Index on our members-only Secret Website).

Based on rave reviews from our friends we urge you to give the Boathouse a try. Whether you like fish (one of their specialties), beef, or vegetarian dining; tell Cleo we sent you. And do let us know what you think.

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, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 4/18/16)
The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16
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)

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 up yourself. What else matters? Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Call any weekday during normal business hours, Eastern Time. Leave a message or email us if you get a voicemail response.

21. Time To Get Serious About SkyMed Membership

Updated 10/1/16

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:

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 may well 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. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and get you protected.

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 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.

For more on JMB memberships, look here:

New JMB memberships -- 1 year \$59; 3 years only \$95
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships -- 1 year \$39; 4 years \$89
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

[JMB Membership Reinstatements](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml) -- Great low prices! Click the link!
<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.](#)

22. 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?

23. 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.

24. 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](#).

25. 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*.

26. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

27. JMB Members are Welcomed to Our Website Supporters FB Page

If you're a JMB member, be sure to read bulletins sent to you recently from JMB Website Supporters. Those bulletins note (among other things) that we've set up a new FB (Facebook) page for JMB members and they give you its address. Do join -- it delivers a convenient new way to contact Membership Services.

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

Site access. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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

LEGAL:

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

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

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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

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

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

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

10/3/16 #1066 10/1/16 2:00 PED 8.7

| [Terms of use](#) |

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

##