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#1076 --- Monday, 12/12/2016  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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

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

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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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 most 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. Read every week by more than 280,000 people 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](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.

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**36** news stories this week

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## 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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 12/24/2016 12/31/2016 52 Simpson bay resort Large remodeled unit A2B. 1 BR unit has large LR w/ murphy bed. Granite kitchen. Dining area. Large patio. Bathroom with double entry. King size bed in BR. Great location close to towel exchange, casino, shops, restaurants, and beach. 1400 Michael 847-863-4277 or 847-433-7725. [lamoss1@mac.com](mailto:lamoss1@mac.com)

### **SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

SALE 12/9/2017 12/16/2017 Week 49 Towers at mullet bay Beautiful 2 bdrm 2 bath living room kitchen area overlooking lagoon point pirouette and golf course. 2 patio's 3 tv's dvd must sell due to health reasons. have enjoyed immensely for past 10 years. Any reasonable offer will be accepted 1200 Joel. 215 938 1888 [Blkld2000@aol.com](mailto:Blkld2000@aol.com)

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

[http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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=xsmweeklynews>

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

[www.linkedin.com](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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- 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

**THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Hazy, Hot December So Far

Instead of December winds, weather this month started out hazy and hot with very widely scattered showers every few days.

Until last Thursday, there wasn't much wind — but that appeared to change on Thursday and continued a bit Friday and Saturday. See story #3.

2. UAL To Charge for Overhead Bin Space; Pay Toilets Next?

Ever since they figured out they can get away with it, America-based airlines have been charging customers for everything imaginable.

Now, United Airlines is planning to charge for overhead bin space. Sen. Chuck Schumer and others are livid. Are pay toilets next?

Despite the objections of some politicians, this idea is expected to spread virally among most other carriers. Here's [the story](#).



### 3. "Today's SXM Weather" Now On Our Everything SXM Facebook Site

For a quick daily synopsis of what the weather will be like in SXM all winter long, check our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) every morning.

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### 4. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (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](http://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](http://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.

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### 5. 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](http://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, as many of our readers already know.

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## Traveling?

**Never go anywhere without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) today; call Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at (508) 747-8281 or email him at [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com) with the subject "SkyMed".**

## **SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**

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### 6. Sapphire Court Decision Coming Tomorrow -- Hopefully

The court in St. Maarten months ago ruled that the Verdier family, developers of Sapphire resort, were obligated to accept a legally binding resort purchase and sale agreement with Bruno Sitbon. The court had told the parties to agree on how to implement it.

From what we gather, there has been little progress by the parties in solving this. So it appears that the court is getting ready to tell them exactly what to do. As this article was written on Saturday, a court date of Tuesday, December 13 had been set. This case has been delayed many times so there is no guarantee that directions will actually be finished Tuesday.

As soon as we know the results, we'll publish them on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and on our [St. Maarten Timesharing](#) site, also on Facebook.

## **SECTION 3: Member**

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### 7. "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 JMB.

*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.*

Please see below for this month's story.

### 8. December Member Benefits Update: Jewelry Shopping

Here are our top jewelry discounts, in alphabetical order. To download and use our JMB discount vouchers, you must be a JMB Website Supporters member. Site access requires your assigned username and password and the Membership Card issued to you by JMB Website Supporters Membership Services. ***To get discounts at any of these businesses, your current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card is required.***

AMA Jewelers Discount: AMA Jewelers, on Front Street and at Princess Juliana Airport, offers JMB Website Supporters members \$50 off any precious gemstone purchase. You must [download and present the AMA Jewelers voucher](#) to use this benefit. This coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). (Benefit #47.)

Ballerina Jewelers St. Maarten has three big offers for JMB members: A free gift with any Tacori purchase; a \$50 Gift Card with a minimum purchase of \$250; or a \$100 Gift Card with a minimum purchase of \$500. You **must** [download and use this voucher](#) to get this exclusive JMB benefit. The voucher is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). (Benefit #135.)

Caribbean Gems on Front Street, Philipsburg, gives JMB Members a free \$25 Gift Card. May be redeemed in person at any Caribbean Gems store in St. Maarten only. You may use one \$25 gift card per family. Cannot be redeemed for cash, sold, or transferred. Please download your [Caribbean Gems \\$25 Gift Card](#) which is required for redemption. Lost or stolen gift cards can NOT be replaced by Caribbean Gems. (Benefit #69.)

DK Gems, on Front Street, Philipsburg, gives JMB Members a free gift for stopping by. Please download the [DK Gems discount coupon](#) which is required for redemption at DK Gems, just west of the center of town. (Benefit #70.)

Kay's Fine Jewelry, Front Street, in Philipsburg offers a \$50 gift certificate toward the purchase of fine jewelry. You **must** [download and use this certificate](#) to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). (See details on the voucher.) (Benefit #121.)

Little Europe Jewelers has now joined our JMB member discount program and their discount offer will appear here soon.

Oro Diamonte Jewelers, Front Street, Philipsburg, offers JMB Members a \$25 Gift Card good toward any in-store purchase. Limit, one \$25 Gift Card per family. You must [download and use this Gift Card](#). The Gift Card is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). (See details on Card.) (Benefit #157.)

Zhaveri Jewelers on Front Street, Philipsburg, gives JMB Members a free \$25 Gift Card good toward any purchase of \$25 or more. Limit: one card per family. [Download and print your gift card here](#), before going to the store. (Benefit #66.)

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).

Still not a member? See next article. A new set of benefits will be explored in January.

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#### **SECTION 4: Island**

9.  
**Holiday Membership Sale**  
**Ends Soon:**  
  
**The Lowest Prices of the Year**  
**on**  
**Over 260 SXM Discounts**  
**for Everything You Buy in SXM --**  
**Rock-Bottom Prices That Won't Be Back!**

**---** **New Memberships: One Year Just \$33 (reg. \$59); Five Years Just \$99** **Go here**

**---** **Renewal / Reinstatement Memberships: One Year \$25; Five Years \$89.** **Go here**

**Click the Links Below:**

New JMB memberships

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal JMB memberships

[www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

When these prices are gone they will not be back...do it now!

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**Hear Jeff Live On Island 92 Radio (91.9 FM or**  
**[www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com))**



## Every Monday at About 9:45 a.m. Island Time, 8:45 a.m. EST

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### 10. Huge Holiday Jewelry Discount Offers From Zhaveri Jewelers & Caribbean Gems

Both [Caribbean Gems](#) and [Zhaveri Jewelers](#) this year are offering extraordinary bargains on hot-selling jewelry / watches at deep discounts for current JMB Website Supporters members. Lesser discounts are available to other readers of *SXM Weekly News*. (JMB members get tons more -- see the top of this section)

We've put Adobe Acrobat PDFs of their offers on our main site. Click the links to see these great holiday offers:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/CaribbeanGems2016.pdf>

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/Zhaveri2016.pdf>

Got questions? Please call the providers directly. Get the free Adobe Acrobat Reader at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/> -- it's a brand new reader.

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### 11. Pinel Island Ferry Captains Strike in Protest Over New Operator

Operators of four motorboats used to ferry passengers from the French side to Pinel island went on strike last Monday to protest the hiring of a fifth operator. The strike continued through Saturday morning, when we've heard a compromise was reached enabling the operators to start ferrying passengers again. We've been unable to confirm that, so if you plan to go to Pinel you might reconfirm ferry availability before you go.

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### 12. Grand Case Restaurants Not Happy About "Sanctioned" Drag Race 12/10

A "sanctioned" motorcycle drag race was scheduled to occur Saturday night, December 10, on the main drag through the Grand Case area beside the airport from 7 PM to 1 AM, in our opinion a remarkably stupid bit of scheduling. The island's only industry is tourism and keeping tourists happy should be a prime mission of the governments of both sides of the island. Somehow they seem to miss this on occasion, and this is one of those occasions. It should've been done last September, when few visitors were here.

Instead, it's being done a couple of weeks before Christmas in December when a fair number of tourists are on the island and many had already made reservations for dinner in Grand Case. Many restaurateurs are unhappy because of the loss of business and the heavy number of cancellations since customers will not only be unable to get to Grand Case easily, but will find virtually no parking once there.

Through our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), we published this on Friday to warn people who perhaps did not know.

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### 13. Marigot Road Disruption Virtually Over

It appears that the recent traffic jams in Marigot caused by installation of utilities on a number of roads are over. Now, it's back to the regular traffic jams that always occur in Marigot, around noon....

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### 14. Dutch Side Government Unhappy Over Loss of Some Cruise Ship Business

Apparently a couple of cruise lines have decided to pull out of St. Maarten, causing what the government says will be a \$90 million shortfall in revenue. Long-time subscribers may remember that we recently wrote that some ships were being reassigned to other routes because of a glut of ships in the Caribbean.

It is stayover tourists and locals, not cruise ship passengers, who buy the majority of things on this island from both jewelers and restaurants. But in recent years, the demographic of arriving cruise ship passengers has been lower thanks to lower cruise ship ticket prices — cruise lines have been anxious to put bodies in empty state rooms.

Beyond that, St. Maarten is rarely the first stop for cruise ships -- jewelers say St. Thomas gets more initial stops. After the first stop, Front Street shop owners say lower demographic passengers apparently have less money to spend in SXM, bringing into question the claim by Port St. Maarten that each passenger spends "\$191."

Bottom line, we've seen several days recently when there were no ships in port and the island was very quiet. And when many ships are here, most passengers buy very little in town and many others ogle jets at SXM Airport or naturists at Orient beach. For an island economy dependent on tourism — and upon attracting new tourists whose initial visits may come on cruise ships — this is not a good thing. The new lower demographic doesn't serve the island.

If the government is unhappy with that, it should work to fix it and stop complaining.

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## 15. Government Proposes New Departure Tax on Stayover Tourists; Car Rental Tax, Too

The Dutch side government constantly complains that it doesn't have enough money. As we've said for years, promoting tourism, the island's only industry, is essential for the product to yield the tax revenues that are potentially available. Yet the island still spends next to nothing promoting its tourism product versus Aruba, which spends well in excess of \$20 million per year.

As we've also said many times, stayover tourists, consisting of timeshare owners, hotel visitors, and condominium owners, represent the vast majority of tourist spending on the island yet it is these visitors who seem to get the short end of the stick from the island government.

We'll address this again more directly in the future, but the continued lack of timeshare owner consumer protection legislation is a very strong case in point. Long ago, a sizable departure tax was built into airfares to St. Maarten, making fares among the highest in the Caribbean. That created an adverse impact on tourism. Now the island government is saying that it wants to add yet another departure tax on the backs of stayover tourists and/or possibly a car rental tax, to reduce the number of car rentals.

Reducing car rentals is a shortsighted, fiscally dangerous idea. Visitors who can't drive will be unlikely to use the little vans the island regards as buses and consequently visits to Philipsburg to buy jewelry will drop as will nighttime visits to many restaurants. The bottom line impact will be very sharply reduced tax revenue, not more.

Instead of spending money on tourism promotion, the Dutch side government recently wasted about \$70,000 on Christmas decorations for the new government building in Philipsburg and somewhere around \$200,000 for an LED lighting system to light up the new government building like the Simpson Bay Causeway — an enormous waste of money since most cruise ships leave well before sundown and the building won't even be visible to them.

We'll keep on top of these proposed taxes for you. They would cut the number of tourists visiting SXM, not a good idea at all.

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## 16. Court Says Bidding Process Faulty; Orders Stop to Building New Hospital

The St. Maarten Medical Center is in serious need of replacement, and the most entrepreneurial of all government officials, Theo Heyliger, a couple of years ago promised the new hospital. The low bid came from an overseas construction company and steps were underway to start the project near the current building in the Bel Air area, Dutch Side.

However, a higher bidder went to court saying that the bid that was accepted was artificially low. As we understand it, the court neither agreed or disagreed with that claim, but it did find fault with the bidding process and ordered

work on the new hospital stopped. There had not been any significant visible progress.

The island does need a high quality facility and it needs it now. Our hope is this delay is solved quickly for the good health of everyone on the island.

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## 17. Where Is Theo Heyliger Now That SXM Needs Him?

Long-time St. Maarten politician Theo Heyliger, whose grandfather was A. C. Wathey — the man who really began to market St. Maarten as a tourist destination decades ago and after whom the current cruise and cargo facilities are named — *has been the single most productive political figure on the island for the last 20 years.*

Among the major tourist-oriented projects which he shepherded from concept to reality were the Dr. A. C. Wathey cruise and cargo facilities; the brand-new, state-of-the-art airport terminal; the reconstruction and beautification of Great Bay beach, Front Street, and Back Street in Philipsburg; the Simpson Bay Causeway, which was widely criticized as a road to nowhere but which in reality has made remarkable contributions to the reduction of congestion on the Dutch side; and the future new Dutch side hospital.

*He is the one politician who truly gets it about the importance of tourism to the island economy and the need to provide a top-notch competitive product to prospective tourists and to promote it. If the island is going to continue to be successful in tourism, it had better start listening to Mr. Heyliger.*

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## 18. No Zika, No, Chikungunya, Very Little Seaweed: Why SXM Is Busy

Over the last few weeks, we've seen very few mosquitoes; heard next to nothing about anyone having Zika, Chikungunya, or Dengue Fever; and we've seen next to no Sargasso seaweed, which plagued island beaches until a few months ago when it pretty much disappeared.

SXM is busy because it has gorgeous beaches, extraordinary restaurants, extremely good jewelry bargains, and very gracious, friendly people. Its road infrastructure isn't very good, its cell phone and Internet infrastructure are not up to North American standards, it has no trauma center, and it does have traffic issues — but tourists who know about the island forgive all these things to enjoy its advantages.

The island needs to fix what's wrong *and leverage what's right.* Years of willy-nilly building on the Dutch side have caused traffic congestion and a lack of parking. *Fix those things and enhance beach access, then make your top budget item tourism promotion and you will have tourists flocking to the island and being able to get around easily.*

Expecting people to come when you do no promotion and don't fix infrastructure issues (like the unholy mess that is GEBE) exacerbates problems which are still quite fixable *if you commit to fixing them.*

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## 19. How Will Trump's Hard Line on Cuba Affect SXM Tourism?

Pres.-elect Donald Trump has been complaining about the trade deal between the United States and Cuba, saying it is a bad one and he wants to get a better deal.

Were he to abandon the current deal and slam the door shut on American tourism to Cuba, SXM would probably heave a big sigh of relief. But we are totally convinced that is not going to happen.

We believe some of Mr. Trump's blustering about Cuba is designed to impress some of his core constituency. As a businessman, he knows the deal between the Obama administration and Cuba is a win-win for both countries -- and a business win is a big deal to Trump.

The deal may get a few cosmetic changes but we think nothing material will change and that American tourism to Cuba will surge both in the short and long term despite the fact that Cuba isn't ready for it. SXM has a fantastic tourism product compared to Cuba — it simply needs to fix what's wrong and leverage what's right with effective, hard-hitting promotion.

Cuba has nothing resembling the infrastructure American tourists like, but that will change.

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## 20. SXM Tourism Outlook for 2017

The outlook is very good right now. Mosquito-borne illnesses are no issue, seaweed is virtually clear, there were no damage-causing hurricanes, and the polar vortex is returning to North America. Except for the issues noted above (which basically point out that improvements are possible and necessary), things look good.

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## 21. Update on Etna Ice Cream Manufacturing

The final steps in getting new equipment online are expected to be completed by the middle of this week and Betty Smiroldo, one of the owners, is hoping production will resume by about the end of the week.

We'll keep you posted. A plant tour and some free ice cream will be going to one of our top winners in our Five Million Smiles giveaway; see story 30.

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## 22. SXM's Best Seafood Restaurants

For people who love seafood, SXM is clearly one of the best places on the planet. We would guess that the vast majority of island restaurants offers seafood in one form or another — definitely check the menus of your favorite places closely. Thanks to an editing error, an early draft of this story appeared last week instead of the final story, which is below. We apologize for any inconvenience.

We mention a few places here, in no special order:

- Big Fish in Oyster Pond (on the road to Oyster Bay Beach Resort) not only has several varieties of succulent seafood on its menu (along with other traditional and highly creative non-seafood fare), it also has sushi and sashimi among its many popular appetizers. Huge selection of main courses and a wonderful bar, too. Bright, upbeat, contemporary ambiance. Not only that, their chef is Wendell Laurence, the two-time winner of SXM's prestigious Crystal Pineapple Award who was just also named Chef of the Year in St. Maarten (see separate story below). Let's just say at Big Fish your taste buds are in for a truly delicious night.
- Canoa, also in Oyster Pond, blends contemporary European flavors with the Caribbean's best tastes, offering a unique spectrum of flavors and textures that are a great palate pleasure. Although their menu includes dining for all tastes, seafood is a key part of it and it is flat out divine. Tell host Don that we sent you. Canoa, Big Fish, Daniel's, and Infinity at Oyster Bay (reviewed here last year) are four great selections in what we've called the "Culinary Village" at Oyster Pond / Dawn Beach -- all clustered in the same area.
- SkipJacks in Simpson Bay, one of the largest restaurants on the island with a massive deck on the lagoon, though it has beef and more, specializes in seafood and has been named "best seafood restaurant" on the island for years. Definitely try their lobster offerings, which are big sellers. They even offer cold water lobster flown in from Maine, for those who prefer it to the spiny Caribbean version, also sold at SkipJacks in quantity every night.
- Pineapple Pete is known for its lobster Thermidor. During high season, you can see a conga line of wait staff members coming out of the kitchen with this major house specialty.
- Sushiiitto, the island's top sushi/sashimi/teppanyakki emporium, located at Princess Port de Plaisance next to the Casino, delivers an outstanding Japanese dining experience and has now added plum wine to their repertoire, we hear. Consistently excellent.
- Daniel's by the Sea on Dawn beach has a spectacular setting in gazebos under palm trees literally on the beach. Caressed by tradewinds, it has been one of our top choices for years for seafood and, like both SkipJacks and Pineapple Pete, has been a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence. You can select your lobster right from their lobster tank. We also love their salmon, though we always order it without the spices/flavorings they usually add. When they have Snook, it's also well worth getting — it's a tender, delicious local whitefish.

- Spiga in Grand Case invariably has some kind of seafood special. On our last visit a few weeks ago, it was seabass which was wonderfully prepared — thin, tender, and luscious. Of course, if you're a carnivore, their filet mignon has long been one of the best on the island — we do love it.
- Mario Bistro at Porto Cupecoy also always has great seafood selections -- and chef/owner Mario Tardif runs one of the island's top restaurants here. You cannot go wrong with Mario.
- IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay also has frequent seafood specials — and the quality of their salmon, on the menu every night, is among the best you'll find on the island and is one of the things we have most often there. They have great Italian dining all around in an upbeat, lively atmosphere. They just finished an extensive remodeling that has the place looking better than ever.
- Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay, about 120 yards North of the Simpson Bay drawbridge, has mussels and salmon fillets from Nova Scotia arriving every week. Nobody does it better. Luscious food, lively place, and heavenly desserts. If you have not yet been to Vesna, it's time you went.
- Toppers in Simpson Bay is known for meatloaf, brisket, and their lobster -- which is delicious. So are the brisket and meatloaf if you're not in a seafood mood. Highly informal... the focus is on the food, pure and simple.

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## 23. Big Fish Head Chef Gets Major Culinary Awards

St. Maarten educated Wendell Laurence is Chief Chef at Big Fish Restaurant in Oyster Pond on Emerald Merritt Road. In recent days, he won his second consecutive "Crystal Pineapple" hospitality award and was also selected to receive prestigious "Chef of the Year" recognition. See the [Daily Herald](#) article.

Educated in St. Maarten, Laurence was selected several years back to be a chef at the very busy iZi Ristorante Italiano where he worked under Davide Foini, who already had an award-winning career at both La Gondola and his current iZi. We've tried his past work at iZi and his current work at Big Fish -- he's quite outstanding and really knows his stuff: his latest awards are truly well-deserved.

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## 24. Caribbean Gems To Open New Store at Westin Dawn Beach

Possibly as soon as later this month, Manu Budhrani's newest Caribbean Gems store will open its doors at the Westin Dawn Beach Resort and Casino.

The large store is off the hotel's lobby and across from its casino. The Westin has lots of free parking and many visitor / guest comforts. Of course the store will be open to the public.

Caribbean is one of the island's top jewelers and it has long given our JMB members something special. We'll let you know when it opens; they're hoping before Christmas.

See also story 10 for info on special holiday offers for both JMB members and readers of SXM Weekly News. As always, top offers go only to JMB Website Supporters. See the top of this section for more on JMB membership: Holiday Sale is now underway.

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## 25. Bringing Your Dog to SXM

This is one of a number of new pages being added to [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). See the story [here](#).

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## 26. Great News on Military Memberships

Military memberships -- available at an astoundingly low \$16.99/year for US active duty and vets (anyone with a DD214 or other proof of service) -- are now faster and easier to get than ever.

For more information or to sign up, go to our home page, [www.everythingSXM.com](http://www.everythingSXM.com) and click the page curl at the top right of the page. It will take you to our JMB Website Supporters sign-up page where there's a new item specifically on military memberships which will enable you to sign up there using PayPal. You can also sign up by phone or by check. All the particulars are there, including how to get us a copy of your DD 214 which we need for proof of service.

You can upgrade to a military membership or buy a new one both for the same price — one payment of \$67.96 which gives you four years of membership and immediate Platinum Status, which you will retain as long as your membership remains current — regardless of its expiration date. Platinum status memberships usually require that your membership not expire for 10 years..

If you're a current JMB member, you can go to the Membership Renewal Center on the secret website and upgrade to a Military Membership there.

We are grateful for your service to the US. JMB Communications, our parent company, is based in the Boston area and we wanted some tangible way to show that gratitude.

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## Get SkyMed Now, Before You Need it. Got Questions About SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation?

Phone or Email Jeff: (508) 747-8281  
[jeff@getskymed.com](mailto: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 -- to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Call any weekday during normal business hours, Eastern Time. Please leave a message or email us if you get a voicemail response.

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### 27. Restaurant of the Week

This feature returns next week. Please see story # 00.

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### 28. A Look Back at "Old" SXM Restaurants: Story #3, Turtle Pier

Over the years, St. Maarten/St. Martin has been home to many restaurants of varying descriptions. This series briefly describes a number of restaurants from both sides of the island that have passed into history but that have not left our memory.

If you'd like to participate in this series, please send an email to [Susan@JMBcommunications.com](mailto:Susan@JMBcommunications.com) with the subject "a look back" and give us the name and a description of the restaurant; we'll pick those not already on our list for future publication.

Turtle Pier, on Airport Road near Avis, is one of many properties bought by the airport for expansion. Located on a pier over Simpson Bay Lagoon, it at first was renowned for its fried zucchini, later for its coconut shrimp (phenomenal) and its Lobster Night, when the place was filled to overflowing. JMB held several member parties there when our membership was small and parties were doable (without offending people turned away). In its early days, the restaurant raised baby sea turtles and released them to the ocean when they were larger and had a better chance of survival. Overzealous environmentalists nixed that, but the restaurant, with parrots in cages outside and a



few monkeys, was a great place which is missed to this day. Al Wathey, thanks for the memories.

Come back next week for another article about a former SXM restaurant....

Featured so far in this series:

- 1- West Indian Tavern
- 2- Sam's Place
- 3- Turtle Pier

Next week: Scavenger's

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## 29. Do **Not** Wait For Something to Go Wrong Before You Act....

I've had three phone calls in recent months from people -- SXM tourists like you -- who needed help in a hurry.

They all wanted something they could not get. The events that moved them to call were 1) a stroke (it wasn't his first); it happened a day or so before his wife called me for help; 2) a heart attack a few days before a gentleman from the Rocky Mountain west called; and 3) a cancer diagnosis a few days before a man's wife called me.

If you're healthy now, that's good -- but tomorrow is another day. In all three cases, these people were hoping to return to SXM but they did not want to risk their lives (and their finances) by not having SkyMed medical evacuation membership protection. *In all three cases the sudden change in their health made it impossible for them to be approved.* (SkyMed always asks "Any hospitalizations in the last six months?")

Do NOT put off getting SkyMed Medical Evacuation protection. I don't like it when I file an application for someone and sudden drastic changes in their health make approval impossible. I want to have SkyMed always say "yes" but life doesn't necessarily work that way. Please GET SKYMED BEFORE YOU NEED IT ...so you'll have it when you DO need it. See [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com). It is the best medical evacuation membership product on the market. -- Jeff

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## 30. Five Million Smiles Vacation Giveaway Now Includes 14 Vacations; Enter Here

We've just made still more additions to our list of "Five Million Smiles" vacation giveaways.

Both of our two Grand Prizes are weeks at two of the island's most fabulous villas — the name of one of them is below. *The other will be shown very soon. All vacations are subject to availability, seasonal limitations, and island taxes / fees at the discretion of the resort owners.* We'll be announcing more "Five Million Smiles" prizes soon, but here are those we can tell you about now (the list has grown since we last published it):

- Eight days and seven nights at [Villa Onyi](#) at Point Blanche. Featured on HGTV this is one of the island's most breathtaking villas, inside and out. (*One of our Grand Prizes; new.*)
- Eight days and seven nights in the [Guest House at Colony Manor Goldendaze](#), brand new, on quiet Simpson Bay Beach.
- Eight days and seven nights at the beautiful [Villa Son Risa](#) in Pelican Key (Cleaning charge applies; avail. May-Sept. 2017. New.)
- Eight days and seven nights at [Mercure Beach Hotel and Marina](#), Simpson Bay Lagoon, French Side
- Eight days and seven nights at [Holland House Beach Hotel](#), Philipsburg, on Great Bay Beach (new)
- Eight days and seven nights in a garden studio (from 4/15/17 to 12/15/17) at [Mary's Boon Beach Resort](#)
- Eight days and seven nights at El Zafiro beachside resort on Simpson Bay Beach (new)
- Eight days and seven nights at [La Vista Resort or La Vista Beach](#);
- Eight days and seven nights at [Baker's Suites](#) in Simpson Bay, near Kim Sha 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](#);
- Four days, three nights, plus open bar and breakfast at naturist [Club Fantastico](#)
- Four days, three nights in boutique hotel style suites in the main building at [Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#).
- A one-week car rental from Leisure Car Rental, one of our car rental partners (Grand Prize)
- A one-week car rental from Tropicana Car Rental, our first car rental partner (Grand Prize)
- More to come.

There are also many prizes including:

- A Helicopter ride for the grand prize winner (from Corail Helicopters, Grand Case Airport)
- Jewelry prizes from Caribbean Gems and Oro Diamante as well as Little Europe jewelers
- From Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case, a bottle of Ti Amour, their new gold perfume collection with 23K gold inside, which normally sells for 129 € per bottle.
- Full-day cruise for two to Tintamarre aboard the 62' Celine Too Motoryacht
- Cruise for two on the legendary Celine Too Pub Crawl
- Tour of the Etna Ice Cream Factory -- and a few pints to take with you
- Tour of Toppers' Rhum Distillery (including free samples, if you're old enough).
- And there's a painting by renowned SXM artist Patty Meotti which has been posted in our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). More on Patty is [here](#). We'll detail these and more new prizes soon.

Many dinners for two are also offered for the Grand Prize winners, including this again heavily updated group:

- 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 [Big Fish Restaurant](#), Oyster Pond
- Dinner for two at [SkipJack's restaurant](#), Simpson Bay (limit, \$90; new)
- Dinner for two at [Daniel's By The Sea](#) on Dawn Beach;
- Dinner for two at [iZi Ristorante Italiano](#), Simpson Bay.
- Dinner for two at [Infinity Restaurant at Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#);
- Sunday Brunch for Two at [Oyster Bay Breach Resort](#)
- Breakfast Buffet Any Day for two at [Toppers Restaurant](#) in Simpson Bay
- \$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 [Trattoria Pizza Pasta](#)
- Dinner for two at [Vesna Taverna](#) in Simpson Bay
- 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;
- Lunch for two at Patrick Turner's Tropical Wave on Le Galion Beach;
- More to come. Dinners are subject to reasonable limitations.

You can enter now if you're a direct (not pass-along) subscriber to **SXM Weekly News**... Click the link to enter now: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting\\_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml](http://everythingxsm.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.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). *Only direct subscribers are eligible to win -- and subscriptions are free.*

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## Traveling Anywhere?

**Never go anywhere without SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) today; call Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at (508) 747-8281 or email him at [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com) with the Subject "SkyMed".**

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31. New: Holiday Gift Memberships in JMB for Your Friends... (@ Holiday Sale Prices)

If you're one of the more than 28,000 people who enjoy JMB membership, spread the joy this holiday season by

giving friends or relatives a Gift Membership in JMB Website Supporters. Just buy a new membership and give us a note with your purchase saying who it's for (name, address, email address, and phone of the recipient) and we'll make it happen. Buy the length of membership you like:

**[--- New Memberships: One Year Just \\$33 \(reg. \\$59\); Five Years Just \\$99 Go here](#)**

**[--- Renewal / Reinstatement Memberships: One Year \\$25; Five Years \\$89. Go here](#)**

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## 32. SkyMed Is On Sale: The "SkyMed Bonus" Is Yours, Too

Updated 11/20/16

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.*

Why Buy Now? We're offering SkyMed now at very special pricing for JMB Website Supporters members only — but if you're a nonmember and care to join SkyMed now through us, we'll enroll you in JMB Website Supporters at the same time. This offer is available only by phone; call Jeff directly at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed questions only) and he will be happy to answer your questions, tell you about the different types of programs available, and their respective costs. He'll also be happy to fill out your application for annual or multiyear memberships by phone and at the same time you'll be able to set up a JMB Website Supporters membership (required to get the best multiyear SKYMED discounts).

The SkyMed Bonus: JMB Website Supporters members get hefty discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you buy a new multiyear SkyMed membership (for three or five years), or upgrade your SkyMed membership bought through us to a new three- or five-year SkyMed membership, Jeff will be able to simultaneously enroll you in a JMB Website Supporters membership for the exact same period. If you're already a JMB member and do a new or upgraded multiyear SkyMed membership through us, your JMB membership will be extended by the same multiyear duration. Again, this offer is available by phone only and for a limited time — call Jeff at 508-747-8281 during normal business hours Eastern time. Since he has been a rep for SkyMed for about 14 years, Jeff will be able to answer all of your SkyMed questions and help tailor a plan for you that meets your needs.

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

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## 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](mailto: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](http://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 at our Black Friday prices](#); see the beginning of this section for Black Friday pricing. *Our Black Friday sale is almost over, so act quickly.*

New JMB memberships

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal JMB memberships

[www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

More stories are below.

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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.](#)

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### 33. 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?

### 34. Q and A About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 11/20/16)

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://skymed.com/jmbspecial) (JMB members) or [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) (non-JMB members) or email Jeff directly at [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto: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.

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### 35. 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](#).

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### 36. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml). This is scheduled to complete an update shortly.

ADD EVENTS HERE =====

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

#### **SECTION 5: For Members Only**

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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

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

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**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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)**

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **[jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

To see the JMB Communications Privacy Policy, visit [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml)

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