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#1092 --- Monday, 4/10/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin

Happy Easter & Happy Passover



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

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

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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 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. Now read by more than 290,000 people around the world...**

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



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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:

-- TSA Pre-Clearance In SXM Looks Like a Near Certainty, But It's Unlikely to Be Quick

-- 2017 Hurricane Season Forecast Issued by Crown Weather Services

-- Time To Get Loud About The "Timeshare Authority," A Remarkably Bad, Counter-Productive Proposal...

-- It All Ends 4/17: Our 15th Anniversary Membership Sale Delivers About 300 SXM Discounts

-- Extraordinary Rates at Villa Onyi Released for JMB Members Exclusively (thru 4/2018)

-- About The Five Millionth Visitor to Our SXM Site, Everythingxsm.com

- **Several Drownings Underscore The Dangers of Swimming Alone in Pounding Surf**
- **More Trouble for Tropical Wave, Stable, Butterfly Farm**
- **March 31 Came & Went, and Lee's Is Still Open; So's Kokomo**
- **Heads Up About Crime in the Cupecoy and Maho Areas**
- **Announcing Our First-Ever "Sum-Sum-Summertime" SXM Vacation Giveaway**
- **Why SXM Summer Vacations are So Very Appealing (and Uncrowded)**
- **Etna Ice Cream, The Best, Back in Full Production**
- **Vacation Plans? Two Ways To Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period to Cover Pre-Existing Conditions**
- **Should You Buy a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages**
- **30 Day Free Look, No Age Limit When You Join SkyMed**
- **SkyMed Q&A**
- **Download List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits**
- **Periscope: Some of Next Week's Top Stories**

36 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 about 300 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:

Not in PDF version.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Not in PDF version.

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 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://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. TSA Pre-Clearance In SXM Looks Like a Near Certainty, But It's Unlikely to Be Quick
2. 2017 Hurricane Season Forecast Issued by Crown Weather Services
3. "Today's SXM Weather" a Regular Feature On Our Everything SXM Facebook Site
4. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)
5. 110% Guarantee on Hotel & Car Rental Rates Through [SkyMed Travel Club](#)

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

6. OBBR Adding Free Wi-Fi
7. Time To Get Loud About The "Timeshare Authority," A Remarkably Bad, Counter-Productive Proposal...
8. Villa Onyi Releases Extraordinary Rates Through 4/30/18 for JMB Members; Retail Rates Also Announced
9. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Timeshare Owner Orientation...

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 Discounts & Benefits [Go To This Section](#)

10. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates
11. April Member Benefits Update: Discounts on Car Rentals
12. "Everything St. Maarten" Bracelets for JMB Members Now at DK Gems; Buy Some for Friends
13. Introducing the Newest JMB Website Supporters Island Discounts

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

14. When You Need It Most, You Can't Buy It At Any Cost...

15. It All Ends 4/17: Our 15th Anniversary Membership Sale Delivers About 300 SXM Discounts

16. About The Five Millionth Visitor to Our SXM Site, Everythingxsm.com
17. Simpson Bay Resort, La Patrona, and Mercure Hotel Get Late JMB "Awards of Excellence"
18. March 31 Came & Went, and Lee's Is Still Open
19. Kokomo is Open Too...
20. Several Drownings Underscore The Dangers of Swimming Alone in Pounding Surf
21. Apparent Domestic Dispute at Alegria Resort Results in Death of Two Alleged Combatants
22. Heads Up About Crime in the Cupecoy and Maho Areas
23. Announcing Our First-Ever "Sum-Sum-Summertime" SXM Vacation Giveaway
24. Etna Ice Cream, The Best, Back in Full Production
25. The SXM Party Bus: For People Who Really Do Want to Party
26. Rumors Resurface About Tropical Wave, Stable, Butterfly Farm
27. Vacation Plans? Two Ways To Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period to Cover Pre-Existing Conditions
28. Still: Get a 10-Year Price Guarantee on New or Upgraded SkyMed Five-Year Ultimate Memberships: Ends Soon
29. Restaurant of the Week: (Reservations are a Must)
30. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants
31. Should You Buy a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages
32. 30 Day Free Look, No Age Limit When You Join SkyMed
33. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
33. SkyMed Q&A
34. Download List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
35. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News
36. Periscope: Some of Next Week's Top Stories

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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. TSA Pre-Clearance In SXM Looks Like a Near Certainty, But It's Unlikely to Be Quick

We spoke in the last week or so with people close to the TSA preclearance project in SXM. As you may remember, that project would enable US-bound passengers to be precleared in St. Maarten for both US customs and immigration, virtually eliminating the need to go through either upon arriving back in the states.

It appears now that TSA preclearance in SXM is virtually certain, according to the people with whom we spoke. The bad news is that it may take a bit of time for SXM airport to make the serious gate changes that are required to turn this from concept to reality. Our guess — and it is only a guess — is that it could be ready for the 2018 – 2019 high season, but even that is uncertain.

But the good news is that it appears almost certain now to move from concept to reality.

2. 2017 Hurricane Season Forecast Issued by Crown Weather Services

Crown Weather Services, the Maine-based private forecasting service that we've used for years to keep a close eye on hurricanes and tropical storms approaching St. Maarten and the US, has issued its forecast for the 2017 hurricane season which begins June 1 and ends November 30.

The forecast says that we are transitioning to an El Niño pattern due to cooler ocean temperatures in the Atlantic. Consequently, the 2017 season could be one with fewer than usual hurricanes in the vicinity of St. Maarten. Unfortunately, unusually warm seawater conditions in the Gulf of Mexico and near Florida could make things there

tougher than usual.

We have always urged readers who are potentially in the path of storms, either in the US or the Caribbean, to join Crown Weather to receive its forecasts which can be enormously helpful in both business and personal planning in case a storm is approaching. In our opinion, their forecasts are spot on and are extremely helpful. For more, please see www.crownweather.com.

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

Check our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) each day for daily weather updates. You'll find forecasts by clicking Weather on our site, www.everythingsxm.com.

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 -- 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.

5. 110% Guarantee Now On SkyMed Travel Club Hotel, Car Rental Rates (Updated 2/18/17)

SkyMed offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through SkyMed Travel.

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers):

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 travel reservations and 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 across the board and their new 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is a big deal.

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. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. ***If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.***

You will not be disappointed.

Traveling *Anywhere?*

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit www.getskymed.com today; email Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at jeff@getskymed.com with the subject "SkyMed". Include your phone number & time zone.

This is key: SkyMed Annual & Multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of changes in your age or health, and SkyMed never raises its rates related to either advancing age or declining health.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. OBBR Adding Free Wi-Fi

A few weeks ago, we ran a story about Oyster Bay Beach Resort's acquisition of most of the units at Coral Beach Club, which is near OBBR just south of Mr. Busby's Beach Bar.. It was a rather remarkable acquisition which has the promise of broadening horizons for both unit owners at Coral Beach and timeshare owners at OBBR.

Now, Ricardo Perez, OBBR general manager, is saying that the facility will shortly have free Wi-Fi. Previously, Wi-Fi was available on a paid basis. We think this is an excellent competitive move and certainly a win-win for OBBR timeshare owners.

It will be effective shortly.

7. Time To Get Loud About The "Timeshare Authority," A Remarkably Bad, Counter-Productive Proposal...

The more we learn about the Timeshare Authority proposal from the Dutch Side government, the more we think it's imperative for timeshare owners to speak up in opposition to it.

We understand the motivation behind creating the Authority, which is a sister proposal to the timeshare consumer protection ordinance which is also nearing final passage. Although the timeshare ordinance itself isn't as strong as we'd like it to be, it nonetheless is a very decent start and can be improved over time. But the Timeshare Authority is a bad idea on the face of it that should never be approved.

The Timeshare Authority proposal would create a "Timeshare Authority" — an altogether new bureaucracy which in our opinion would constitute a vast overreach and a huge expense *that would be paid for directly by timeshare owners*.

By now, the Dutch Side government ought to recognize the fact that timeshare owners represent the single biggest contributor to the success of the island's economy. They have come regardless of hurricanes, crises, government upheavals, and numerous other issues. These stayover tourists spend money on Front Street, go to many

restaurants, buy groceries, buy jewelry, and overall contribute far more to the economy than hotel visitors and cruise ship passengers combined.

Yet in the face of those incontrovertible facts, the Dutch Side government proposes a bureaucracy which not only is unnecessary but which could also raise the bottom line cost of owning on St. Maarten timeshare by perhaps \$200 per timeshare week owned *simply to pay for this pointless bureaucracy*. That could make vacations by many loyal St. Maarten visitors impossible, further damaging the Dutch side economy.

SXM Weekly News for years has editorially implored the Dutch Side government to enact timeshare owner consumer protection legislation to prevent the kind of disasters that have happened on the island in the past, in particular what we named the Caravanserai Debacle, the long-term disaster at Sapphire resort which years later is just starting to be ameliorated, and the bankruptcy and temporary closure at Pelican Resort, all of which were unnecessary and all of which the government publicly ignored.

As a consequence of government inaction, many thousands of timeshare units were sold by their former owners for pennies on the dollar to people who bring their own food to the island, cook in their room, and don't shop or eat out. In our humble opinion, that's why Front Street today is howling about a severe lack of business and why so many restaurants have gone belly up lately -- with many more certainly to follow.

Does St. Maarten really want more low-rent visitors instead of the people who now continue to support its economy so diligently and so dependably? That is exactly what it will get if the Timeshare Authority proposal is enacted which would slap an additional \$200 or so of cost per week onto the backs of current timeshare owners. It would be devastating for the entire concept of SXM timesharing; it would be bad for timeshare owners; it would be a huge hit on all SXM timeshare resorts; and it would be an unmitigated but totally avoidable disaster for every tourist-oriented business on the island, most especially jewelry stores and restaurants. In our opinion, it would also absolutely damage the island's reputation and it's already very fragile tourist economy.

We're not saying it's a bad idea and then walking away without making a suggestion. Increasingly, we are seeing self-regulation among businesses work effectively in many industries. Indeed, reviews at Simpson Bay Resort, which had so much drama in the past, are now over the top in praise because of that resort's now-completed \$35 million renovation, a truly remarkable achievement. And Sapphire Resort seems to be improving daily, after getting batted over the head by its timeshare owners and by RCI without any action from the government to help beleaguered timeshare owners. The Caravanserai Debacle continues unabated, with that prime real estate hardly being used by anyone and once again, the government continues to sit on its hands.

We know there are self-regulation proposals in the works. With the glaring exception of Caravanserai/Alegria, today there are very few complaints about any St. Maarten timeshares. Consequently this is a situation where consumer-oriented, well-designed self-regulation could be remarkably effective. It could/would eliminate the need entirely for yet another expensive bureaucracy on SXM. *We urge all parties involved in the consideration of this measure to table it and work diligently to create and implement a strong self-regulation program that is totally transparent to timeshare owners and easy to use.* This could and would be far better, more effective, and remarkably less costly than the proposed bureaucracy — but most important, it would help improve the economy of St. Maarten, not damage it.

If you are timeshare owner on St. Maarten, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to oppose the proposed Timeshare Authority and go on record publicly in so doing. You can do that in both major Dutch side newspapers through writing letters to the editor to these addresses:

The Daily Herald: <editorial@thedailyherald.com>

Today Newspaper - Hilbert Haar <todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com>

8. Villa Onyi Releases Extraordinary Rates Through 4/30/18 for JMB Members; Retail Rates Also Announced

Villa Onyi is the hilltop Villa in Point Blanche with stunning views of the sea and of St. Barths in the distance, affording residents and guests unmatched serenity and views of the Heineken Regatta and other Regattas both in St. Maarten and in St. Barths. It is an ultra-luxurious two-bedroom villa with its own private pool, gorgeous inside and out and with a full gourmet kitchen.

After a delay caused by matters internal to JMB, the new rates for Villa Onyi are set to be released probably this Wednesday or Thursday in a special bulletin to JMB Website Supporters members only. Reservations at the Villa can be made exclusively by JMB members at remarkable prices currently through April 2018. It has been featured

multiple times on HGTV. We urge you to make reservations at once upon receiving the bulletin; this is not an opportunity you'll want to miss.

Retail rates will be released to *SXM Weekly News* readers later. If you are not currently a JMB member, join now while our Anniversary Sale is in progress; see the beginning of section 4 for details.

[Changing Your Email Address?](#)

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One for your Weekly News subscription Quickly and Easily at our new Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com

9. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Owner Orientations

Simpson Bay timeshare owners should sit in on the orientations there. Not only is the pastry delicious, but a surprise mystery guest will be there (in person or by video) and you might want to hear what he has to say. He may just have something for you....

SECTION 3: Member

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

This 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.

We now offer about 300 discounts (including those now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please see below for this month's story.

11. April Member Benefits Update: Discounts on Car Rentals

Car rentals are one of the most popular groups of discounts we offer. We're adding a new one this week as we continue to give you a wider choice of all discounts and benefits. The discounts are considerable all year-long. You can check our car rental discounts now on the members-only secret website or wait a few days until you receive an email from JMB Website Supporters spelling out new benefits being added this week. Our car rental discounts are always significant and offer you discounts not only from local companies but from global brands as well.

12. "Everything St. Maarten" Bracelets for JMB Members Only Now Available at DK Gems

The bracelets are for JMB Website Supporters members only and are offered at a discount. We published pictures of them on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Multiple finishes -- gold, silver, etc. - are offered. Current, valid JMB membership card required as is a government-issued photo ID. [Contact Jeff at DK Gems](#),. Phone and online

orders can be accepted if you send valid JMB membership and ID info.

"Everything St. Maarten" is a trademark owned by JMB Communications and is used with permission. JMB does not manufacture, sell, or warrant these products.

13. Introducing the Newest JMB Website Supporters Island Discounts

JMB members, watch your email this week for details about the latest series of new benefits being posted to your JMB Website Supporters secret website. Some very significant stuff is going live.

SECTION 4: Island

14.

**When you suddenly need
an emergency medical evacuation,
it's too late to buy SkyMed.**

**Get SkyMed before you need it,
so it's ready when you do.**
www.getskymed.com

Email Jeff with SkyMed Questions: jeff@getskymed.com
Include your phone number for a call back.

**Hear Jeff Live On Island 92 Radio (91.9 FM or
www.island92.com)
Now Every Monday
Somewhere Between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. Island
Time;
(EDT is the same time)**

This week he's Live With Stacey S.,
our 5,000,000th visitor to everythingsxm.com
who wins a SXM vacation
and has a fascinating hobby...

15. [It's All Over Monday April 17:](#)

***JMB Website Supporters 15th Anniversary
Membership Sale***

About 300 SXM Discounts --

New Memberships:

One Year \$44, but Four Years \$89

Renewals/Reinstatements:

1 Yr. \$34, but Five Years \$109

New JMB memberships

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

Renewal JMB memberships

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

16. About The Five Millionth Visitor to Our SXM Site, Everythingxsm.com

Her name is Stacey and she lives in central Massachusetts, and at about 12:15 AM one day last week she was the five millionth visitor to our site, www.everythingsxm.com.

In mid-March, we gave away 14 vacations to celebrate the fact that our site was about to hit 5,000,000 visits. We couldn't give a vacation to our five millionth visitor because that visit hadn't yet occurred. As our five millionth visitor, Stacey will be receiving a vacation in St. Maarten during our next major vacation giveaway.

In addition to being a software engineer for one of Massachusetts' high-technology companies, Stacey in her spare time farms and creates maple syrup and we had posted something about that on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) early last week. We are reposting it Monday afternoon.

She'll be interviewed live on the air on island 92 radio this morning at about 9:50 AM EDT.

17. Simpson Bay Resort, La Patrona, and Mercure Hotel Get JMB "Awards of Excellence"

A while ago, we told you about the 2017 winners of our Everything St. Maarten Awards of Excellence.

Before leaving the island at the end of March, however, we added three new ones: 1) La Patrona authentic Mexican Restaurant at Simpson Bay Resort, St. Maarten's first truly authentic Mexican restaurant; 2) Simpson Bay Resort, which just completed a \$35 million renovation that makes it almost entirely new and beautiful inside and out; and 3)

Mercure Hotel on Simpson Bay lagoon in Sandy Ground, a beautiful property tastefully decorated with beautiful art throughout, which has recently renovated rooms, its own beach, extensive watersports, a beautiful on-site restaurant, and much more. For those who have been traveling and missed our Awards, we plan to list them again next week — see the Periscope, story 36.

18. March 31 Came & Went, and Lee's Is Still Open

Thanks to its landlord, the iconic Lee's Restaurant in Simpson Bay was slated for closure and probable demolition on March 31 — but the good news for Lee's tens of thousands of fans is that it remains open.

Lee has been waging a courageous campaign to keep his long-established restaurant serving its many loyal customers at its current location, but the landlord had said March 31 would be its last day. It wasn't, and as of this past weekend it continued to operate.

We'll keep you posted.

19. Kokomo is Open Too...

Rumors of the closure of the Kokomo Restaurant at Indigo Bay have been swirling for the last several weeks but those rumors are not true. Contact them at 721-553-7815.

20. Several Drownings Underscore The Dangers of Swimming Alone in Pounding Surf

There have been several drownings at various beaches across the island in recent weeks thanks to rough surf and other factors.

The island has no lifeguards, so it's up to beachgoers to be sure they swim safely in rough conditions. It's not advisable to take any chances especially if you've consumed libations. It's also not advisable to swim alone, especially if you're older and are doing strenuous exercise in the water.

Keep your vacation happy. Be careful out there.

21. Apparent Domestic Dispute at Alegria Results in Death of Two Alleged Combatants

Dutch side police reports say that two tourists who were staying at Alegria resort got into a heated argument several days ago and allegedly hit each other with hard objects. Details were not known at press time, but a police press release said that both people involved in the altercation had succumbed to their injuries.

22. Heads Up About Crime in the Cupecoy and Maho Areas

We are hearing that arrests have been made in relation to at least one of two recent criminal acts, one in Maho and one in Cupecoy. Investigations are continuing. Apparently Individuals dressed in dark clothing in one case grabbed a pocketbook from a couple and in the other case a necklace. Although no one was seriously hurt in either incident, both were alarming since the Maho incident occurred during the daytime and the Cupecoy incident, though it occurred late at night, was in an area often walked by tourists.

Wherever you go, please be aware of your surroundings. St. Maarten certainly is paradise but it's not utopia and it, like other Caribbean islands and just like home, has some bad folks mixed in with all the good people.

We also suggest you drive by car in Cupecoy at night, not walk from your resort to the Casino or area restaurants. We also urge everyone never to put any valuables in your car trunk, where we often see people put pocketbooks, cameras, iPads, and other valuables. If we see it, so do folks who could steal such items.

23. Announcing Our First-Ever "Sum-Sum-Summertime" SXM Vacation Giveaway

In deference to the fact that St. Maarten and St. Martin both offer you opportunities for fantastic summer vacations, we are soon launching our first ever Sum-Sum-Summertime vacation giveaway in the next few weeks. We expect to have three or four vacations to give away in a drawing which will take place in the US before Halloween.

Why are we doing this? Because summer is a great time for St. Maarten vacations. St. Maarten is a far better place to do it than crowded lakes and shore resorts across the US. Besides, why should you swelter at home when you can come to St. Maarten and enjoy near-constant sea breezes and pleasantly warm ocean waters during a season when there are supposed to be fewer than normal hurricanes?

At home, summer vacations frequently feature congestion, high prices, long waits, heavy traffic, and other annoyances. You can escape all that through a summer trip to St. Maarten, the place of legendary summer vacations. *Accommodations and car rental prices are low — considerably lower than during the winter high season. Restaurants are comparatively uncrowded and virtually all of them are open. Beaches aren't crowded — and neither are attractions. Even rates at breathtaking villas are at low, reasonable off-season levels.*

Plan a relaxing, inexpensive summer escape for a change this year — in St. Maarten/St. Maarten. See www.everythingsxm.com for all the guidance you'll need. And for hundreds of island discounts good all year long, click the links below -- our Anniversary Sale ends a week from today on Monday April 17. Prices are at the beginning of this section.

New JMB memberships

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

Renewal JMB memberships

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

24. Etna Ice Cream, The Best, Back in Full Production

For those of you who are visiting SXM over the next several weeks, you're in luck: that legendary ultra premium, super rich Etna Ice Cream is back in full production and is stocked well in stores across the island.

We visited their manufacturing plant in the St. Louis part of the French side late last month when they were manufacturing chocolate ice cream.

Those who have tasted Etna need read no further: they know what we're saying. But for those of you who haven't yet experienced it, you absolutely must do it during your next SXM trip. All we'll say is that it's all-natural, ultra-creamy, and quite extraordinary. People even bring it home in their suitcases during the winter....

25. The SXM Party Bus: For People Who Really Do Want to Party

If you're serious about partying make a reservation on the St. Maarten party bus at www.thestmaartenpartybus.com. All we'll say is that there's plenty of fun to go around, there is a pole for dancing, and what happens on the party bus stays on the party bus. Just do it -- relax and enjoy.

26. Rumors Resurface About Tropical Wave, Stable, Butterfly Farm

Patrick Turner's Tropical Wave restaurant on LeGalion beach was threatened with removal by the Reserve Naturelle as its plans for that beach and the entire area progress. Both the nearby stable and the venerable Butterfly Farm also have been threatened in the past.

Recently there seemed to be a truce, and the businesses were moving along normally, as always. A public outcry several months ago seemed to help them. Now the rumor is back, so we've contacted the businesses involved to get an update.

Patrick Turner sent this to us right at presstime:

"They, the Conservatoire de zone littoral that recently took control by way of expropriation, don't want me there. After forty years of planting coconut trees, raking the (sea)weed off the beach, and beautification of the area it seems that the clientele I've established would be better benefiting them. They want me out but I'm fighting for my rights.. The case is being reviewed by a judge locally who is ... from Bourdeaux. I'll keep you posted as it plays out."

We asked how you can help. Patrick replied, "Tropical Wave at Galion beach is open alive and doing well. To support our efforts to ward off the threat of eviction, you can come for a visit. Enjoy our friendly staff and food drink and chairs on the beach. Our fight is to keep this magic place just as is and enjoy all who visit, both local and tourist. Your happiness is our business and we wouldn't want it going under. Please share for your friends and see you on the beach."

We will keep you posted on this right here in *SXM Weekly News* as well as on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), where we'll also keep you up-to-date on the status of Lee's in Simpson Bay — see story 18.

27. Vacation Plans? Two Ways To Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period for Pre-Existing Condition Coverage

On its annual and longer memberships, SkyMed has a 90-day waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions — after that, they're covered in full.

So, if you plan a summer vacation or another later this year, the best way to avoid that waiting period is to buy your annual or longer membership now. That way the waiting period is over when you're traveling.

Annual memberships always cost far less per day than short-term memberships. They're also guaranteed renewable regardless of your age or health -- a big deal. If you buy a short-term membership, after it's over you must medically requalify to get a new one — and your health can change in a heartbeat.

SkyMed delivers up to 18 benefits: [see them all here](#) (downloadable PDF).

28. Get a 10-Year Price Guarantee on New or Upgraded SkyMed Five-Year Ultimate Memberships: Ends Shortly

Buy or upgrade to a new five-year SkyMed Ultimate now and choose to renew automatically, and both transactions will be at the current prepaid five-year price of \$2495 which is just \$499/year, the same as our Annual memberships, but with a lot more benefits. That's a 10-year price guarantee.

Annual SkyMed members (and non-members), take note: you can now upgrade to the SkyMed Ultimate and get more benefits and global coverage at no increase in yearly cost over your current annual SkyMed membership for 10 full years.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

You must upgrade to a prepaid five-year Ultimate now, before the offer ends some time in April, and opt for automatic renewals to be guaranteed the current price (\$499/year when prepaid at inception for the five-year term, \$2495). The 5-year Ultimate increases in price in April but that price increase will not apply to you at your subsequent initial renewal if you buy beforehand and agree to automatic renewals.

Contact jeff@getskymed.com and include your phone number to get all the advantages of SkyMed Ultimate memberships now at this highly advantageous 10-year guaranteed pricing. See more also at www.getskymed.com.

29. Restaurant of the Week: Canoa

Culinary maestro Sherman Marten is the genius behind both Canoa restaurant in oyster pond, opposite Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and Big Fish, and his all-new Rum and Peas local food emporium in Simpson Bay — that outlandish looking place composed primarily of huge shipping containers.

We talked recently about Rum and Peas: now it's Canoa's turn. Canoa offers Continental fine dining with a decided Caribbean touch. Sherman's outstanding recipes are on display here from his creative and innovative appetizers through the main courses and dessert. Located in the Great House Marina on a dock above oyster pond, the scene couldn't possibly be more picturesque at night or during the day, when unfortunately the restaurant is not open (It's open every night. Busby's, nearby, is always open starting at 7 a.m.) Just take our advice and visit Canoa, whether you're looking for delicious seafood, beef, or vegetarian selections. Do save room for dessert, too.

JMB Website Supporters members get discounts; bring your current, valid JMB membership card and the voucher from the Secret Site. Still not a member? Click the page curl at www.everythingsxm.com and join now -- our Anniversary Sale is underway but it ends Monday, April 17.

The article we published about SXM's Top Seafood Restaurants is on its own page on our website — see a complete list of [top seafood restaurants here](#).

The article we published about SXM's Top Italian Restaurants is on its own page on our website -- see SXM's [top Italian restaurants here](#).

And we recently updated our SXM dining page bigtime on www.everythingsxm.com -- check it now, all finished.

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 www.everythingsxm.com.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 1/16/17)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/6/17)
Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 12/5/16)
Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/6/17; added 2/17)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 4/10/17)
Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 3/13/17
SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/19/16)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 3/25/17)
La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/30/17; added 1/17)
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16)
Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 11/21/16)
The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17)
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)

Temptation, <http://www.temptation-sxm.com/> (featured 10/10/16)
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 1/23/17)
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 10/17/16)
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 1/9/17)
Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/27/17)
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 2/13/17)

30. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #18

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 have not left our memory.

Here is this week's story:

Peg Leg Pub & Steakhouse In Simpson Bay became an instant hang out for semiretired adjustable bed mogul Jack Parker and his wife Linda when they moved to St. Maarten many years ago. Jack loved the bar and was astonished to hear it was about to close. Not wanting it to close, he bought it outright, in a hurry.

Then, not satisfied with the quality of steaks on the island, he rebranded it PegLeg Pub and Steakhouse, and started importing top-quality US steaks. The place became a major success but parking was a huge pain, so after a few years PegLeg moved to a location outside the main entrance of Princess Port du Plaisance's Casino, where it stayed until closing a few years ago. Jack had left the island and after a few years of managing the restaurant, Linda left too, while the restaurant was taken over by various managers who didn't quite work out. The restaurant ultimately closed a few years ago and it's wares were auctioned off. Our favorite item here was one of their gigantic salads, chicken Caesar if I recall — all the salads were big and a meal unto themselves. Jack passed away not long ago, as we reported, and Linda still occasionally visits friends on SXM. They and the restaurant are very much missed; it was one of the best for many years.

Check next week for another article about another former SXM restaurant.

Featured so far in this series (D=Dutch F= French):

- 1- West Indian Tavern D
- 2- Sam's Place D
- 3- Turtle Pier D
- 4- Scavenger's D
- 5- Surf Club South F
- 6- Laguna D
- 7- Le Perroquet D
- 8- Ric's Place D
- 9- La Raviolina F
- 10 - Da Livio D
- 11 - La Gondola D
- 12 - L'Alabama F
- 13 - Andy & Cheryl's F
- 14 - La Calanque F
- 15 - La Diva F
- 16 - Antoine D
- 17 - Sambuca D
- 18 - Peg Leg Pub & Steakhouse D

Coming soon: Tutta Pasta D.

Tutta Pasta closed last Fall.

Got suggestions? Email them with detailed information please to susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Look Back." *Include as many details as you can; you may well be the source of a future column.*

31. Should You Get a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages

Short term SkyMed Medical Evacuation memberships are cheap, only \$15/day per couple (including minor children) or \$9/day for an individual. Pre-existing conditions are covered immediately for those who qualify.

But the bad news is that once your short-term membership ends, it's over, and you must medically requalify to get coverage for any subsequent trip. *Your health can change instantly so letting a membership disappear like that isn't the best thing to do for yourself.*

Annual and multiyear memberships cost only about \$1.30/day per couple -- way cheaper. They include more benefits -- especially Ultimate memberships. [See all the features and benefits here.](#)

SkyMed never increases the pricing on its memberships related to your advancing age or declining health. *Once you sign up for SkyMed, you're a member for life as long as you pay your renewals on time. And SkyMed never cancels anyone because of advancing age or declining health.*

Do NOT take chances by waiting. GET SKYMED BEFORE YOU NEED IT ...so you'll have it when you DO need it. See www.getskymed.com. *In our opinion, it's the best medical evacuation membership product on the market.* --Jeff

More stories follow.

32. 30-Day Free Look When You Buy SkyMed Medevac Protection

As a consumer you're well protected since SkyMed offers you a 30 day free look. See www.getskymed.com.

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?

33. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation

Updated 3/6/17

What SkyMed Does: SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. SkyMed is your free ticket home aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to help make sure everything goes as it should.

How SkyMed Works: Like clockwork, you're taken from the hospital by ambulance to a waiting aircraft 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 for SkyMed services, ever.

Anything can happen — but you can 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 an emergency 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.

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; email jeff@getskymed.com and give Jeff your phone number so he can call you. He'll 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 an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership by phone and at the same time you can set up a JMB Website Supporters membership (required to get the biggest multiyear SKYMED discounts).

See www.getskymed.com or email Jeff at jeff@getskymed.com (use the subject "SkyMed inquiry") to learn more and get your questions answered.

Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, short term memberships are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- over 30 countries total. Short-term memberships are very inexpensive, about \$9 per day per person, maximum of about \$15 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 well be impossible (see story 19). 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 just when you may need it most.

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 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 you won't visit anyway. (Ask before going anywhere dangerous/unusual.) 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 / St. Martin or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SKYMED protection in the form of an **ex-pat** membership. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and answer your questions.

In addition to everything else, Jeff Berger has been a SkyMed rep for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff@GetSkyMed.com. He generally returns messages within 24 hours. To see [online frequently asked questions, go here](#). You can also see his SkyMed 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, see below, Join, renew, or reinstate now.

New JMB memberships
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements
<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.](#)

34. 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](#).

35. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. Most issues for the past few years are now online. We hope to finish updating the last several issues late this week.

More stories are below.

**Beat The Coming Price increase
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Memberships:**

Get SkyMed Now, *Before* You Need it.

Email Jeff: 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.

Traveling Anywhere?

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit www.getskymed.com today; email Jeff at jeff@getskymed.com with the Subject "SkyMed".

36. "The Periscope": Articles We're Working on for our Next Issue

The Periscope gives you a glimpse of major stories we're working on for our next issue. The feature will appear when appropriate (not every week).

Here's some of what's coming:

-- We're keeping an eye on the situation at Lee's, Patrick Turner's Tropical Wave restaurant, plus the Butterfly Farm and the nearby stable.

-- We're listing all winners of our 2017 Everything SXM Awards of Excellence.

Look for **Periscope** here next week.

Beat The Coming Price increase
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Memberships
and keep the current low price on a future renewal.
More benefits... *same price.*

Email Jeff now: 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 SkyMed member) to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Email us today. SkyMed emails only.

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?

2017 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.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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?>

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

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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

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

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

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

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