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#1093 --- Monday, 4/17/2017
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

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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during 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:



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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

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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://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

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(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. Saturday's AA 1753 (CLT-SXM) Makes a Bad-Weather Go-Around Look Simple

As we told our JMB Website Supporters members last Friday, the weather all weekend was forecast to be very wet with some wind, and those conditions could persist through early this week.

On Saturday, American flight 1753, a Boeing 757 from Charlotte carrying 136 passengers and a crew of six, approached the airport in very rainy conditions. Ceiling conditions were low, and the aircraft broke out of the low ceiling just in time to determine that it needed to do a go around, which crews are well trained to do under such circumstances.

Video of the approach was shot by the new Maho Beach Cam and within hours surpassed 100,000 views. Here is that video, from Twitter: <https://mobile.twitter.com/PTZtv/status/853300491802902528/video/1> You will also find the video on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Site](#).

Although some people seeing the video characterized it as scary, it really wasn't — it was really something that happens on a daily basis. A long-time senior captain for a major airline told us the following after seeing the video: "A go-around is always the right thing to do, if things aren't just right. With showers around and possible windshear, the go around is essentially spring loaded. (It's even possible the pilots even verbally reviewed to each other the GA sequence/flow on the way down final, based on what they saw ahead - "in case we go around, it's ____). For

challenging environments/airports like SXM, I imagine they had lots of fuel to do a couple of attempts before a divert to SJU. It's either going to look right (safe) all the way to touchdown or you go somewhere else."

A bad weather go-around isn't exactly simple, but it is very much routine.

2. Airport Closed Part of Easter Sunday Thanks to Heavy Rains

SXM Airport was closed part of Easter Sunday afternoon due to torrential rains, forcing a number of approaching passenger aircraft into a holding pattern well northeast of Puerto Rico, where they stayed out of busy traffic lanes in the Caribbean. Weather finally improved at around 3:45, enabling the planes to perform normal approaches to the airport.

Some aircraft went to other islands to refuel, standing by until their position in the landing sequence was set. There were delays in excess of an hour for some landing flights, plus similar or longer delays for some takeoffs. We expect that Customs and Immigration both saw longer than usual delays due to the quick arrival of numerous aircraft once the airport reopened. It was expected that departure delays would be exacerbated by the number of aircraft hoping to take off even while additional aircraft were landing.

In related news, [the Dutch side government issued a press release on Sunday afternoon urging motorists to avoid flooded areas, of which there were many thanks to the deluges](#). The entire press release was posted on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

See next story.

3. Weather Unpleasant for a Few Days

Chief meteorologist for [Crown Weather](#), Rob Lightbown, said late last week that the northeastern Caribbean should expect quite rainy conditions all weekend long, and into the early part of the coming week. We posted that information to our JMB Website Supporters Facebook Site, which we had mentioned to Website Supporters members previously; that page is not available to the general public. Mr. Lightbown said that conditions are expected to improve by midweek, or possibly sooner.

We have long recommended that people who live in the track of serious storms, not only in SXM but also across the entire Caribbean and North America, subscribe to Mr. Lightbown's services, which are very inexpensive, have a great track record, and have been exceptionally timely. You can learn more at www.crownweather.com.

4. 2017 Hurricane Season Just Six Weeks Away

Hurricane season 2017 is almost here. It starts June 1, 2017, and ends on November 30. Storms during June and July are relatively rare, but they do happen. Storms tend to pick up in frequency in August and start simmering down late in October.

As we previously reported, Crown Weather Services has said that this season is likely to be less busy than usual because of the possible development of an El Niño situation. They said that the northeastern Caribbean should have a slightly less busy time this year than usual, hurricane wise. But with warm ocean waters near Florida and the US Gulf Coast, those areas seem more likely for a potential storm impact.

We will keep you posted here in *SXM Weekly News*, on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook site](#) (see next story), and if necessary through Bulletins on our JMB Website Supporters page on Facebook (JMB Website Supporters members only).

5. "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 main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

6. 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.

7. 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

8. A Little Story About the Big Changes at Simpson Bay Resort

Those of you who have read us for any number of years know that Simpson Bay Resort has not always been on our "good" list.

When timeshare owners took over the resort in the 1990s, their hearts were in the right place but they really had no experience running a resort. In retrospect, at the very beginning, they probably should've brought in someone with real hospitality expertise. On the other hand, when Richard Sutton was brought in from Royal Resorts, many timeshare owners didn't trust him (including us) simply because he was an unfamiliar outsider.

In the years since, it has become totally clear to us that Mr. Sutton knows his business extremely well — his approval ratings among timeshare owners in Cancún, where Royal is headquartered, are through the roof. After years of having to deal with this situation in the Caribbean, Royal was able to assume ownership of the resort after its bankruptcy a few years ago.

When we interviewed Mr. Sutton more than a year ago about what he inherited, he told us the infrastructure of the resort when Royal Resorts took it over was a mess, to put it mildly. The renovations undertaken by Royal were massive, requiring everything to be pulled out from floor-to-ceiling (practically, as the movie said, to infinity...and beyond).

Consequently, Simpson Bay Resort today is like an entirely new destination resort, with further enhancements coming. We've toured the entire place and were greatly impressed — so much so that we gave the Suttons and the resort our Everything SXM Award of Excellence this past winter. Timeshare owners substantially funded the renovations through Supplemental Maintenance Fees, but a good chunk of the total investment at the end of the day will also have been made by RRG. Timeshare owners we have spoken with who stuck with the project couldn't be happier.

9. 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 an extended delay caused by system-related matters internal to JMB, the new rates for Villa Onyi are set to be released finally this week 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. Onyi 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

10. 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

11. "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.

12. 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.

13. "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 warranty these products.

14. 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 now going live.

SECTION 4: Island

15.

**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 and time zone 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)

16. Sale Extended One Final Week
But It Must End on Monday April 24:

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

About 300 SXM Discounts --

***New Memberships:
One Year \$44, Four Years \$89***

***Renewals/Reinstatements:
1 Yr. \$34, 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/reinststate/index.shtml>

17. Trump's "Dollar Is Probably Too Strong" Comments May Cause Dollar / Euro Effects

Regardless of your politics or ours, Pres. Trump recently said that the dollar is probably too strong. He was speaking from the standpoint of US-based global businesses trying to sell overseas — companies like, for example, General Electric and Boeing, which are at a disadvantage because of the strong dollar.

From the perspective of tourists visiting St. Martin, however, the strong dollar has real advantages: the exchange rate with the Euro (used on the French Side) is close to 1:1, and a number of French side restaurants still accept dollars at par with euros. Super U, the most popular supermarket on the French side, was recently charging \$1.05USD per Euro required: the French side economy as we noted is denominated in Euros. Should the dollar fall in value, purchases and the French side could become more expensive. Hopefully that won't happen, from the perspective of US-based St. Martin tourists.

18. SXM Singer Susan Erwin Releases a Kim Carnes Cover You'll Want to Hear

Those of you who visit St. Maarten entertainment spots are probably familiar with Susan Erwin, whose soulful renditions of songs resonate greatly with many music lovers. She's offering our *SXM Weekly News* readers a free listen to her new cover of Kim Carnes legendary *Bette Davis Eyes* -- and it's quite a rendition.

Give it a listen here:

<https://www.susanerwin.com/music>

19. About The Mission of ***SXM Weekly News***

Who are we, and why exactly are we here? JMB Communications is a Massachusetts-based marketing company whose CEO, Jeff Berger, fell in love with SXM in 1977 when he visited there as part of a New England Life sales conference (he did Communications in their Boston headquarters). He started his PR business in 1990 and posted his first website a few years later, including in it several writing samples — one of which was a short story he wrote about St. Maarten.

One of JMB's early clients was Digital Equipment Corporation which at the time owned altavista, its internal Search Engine. Digital officials told Jeff informally that altavista was going public, and invited him to be listed at the time of launch. "At the time they launched, and for a while afterwards, I was the only technology writer, technology marketing writer, Massachusetts freelance writer, and so on on altavista. I quickly started getting calls from friends in St. Maarten who thanked me for mentioning them on my St. Maarten website. The problem was I had no St. Maarten website — just the writing sample. That's how this began — 100% accident."

It's just his love of the island that has kept www.everythingsxm.com going all these years.

Hired gun? No. "We are not, and never want to be, a PR organ for the island. That's not us. Our audience and our focus is American, Canadian, and European visitors to the island. Although we spend a fair amount of time there, we're tourists too. So we write from the perspective of tourists about what tourists should expect on the island and we deliver news and information of genuine value to tourists — warts and all. It was tourists who actually compelled us to start taking our 'St. Maarten website' seriously, which is exactly what we've done since the website began about 25 years ago.

"Our mission is as it has always been, to deliver news and information that St. Maarten / St. Martin visitors can use to have better trips. People seem to like what we do since we now have over 290,000 readers worldwide, and our SXM site has now had over five million visitors. Hopefully we'll surpass 300,000 readers perhaps by late this summer."

20. Is Your Passport About To Expire? Why You Should Renew Quickly...

Your passport should be renewed much earlier than you probably think. The following information is from the Department of State of the United States:

Application for a passport renewal should be done approximately nine months prior to the passport's expiration date. There are three reasons for renewing your passport so early.

One, the earlier you apply, the less likely you are to need expedited services. Expediting a passport can be quite expensive. You can avoid these additional costs by starting the process early.

Two, it can take up to three months to process the passport renewal application. Usually, the process is completed in 4-6 weeks but it can take longer, especially during peak travel periods or when new passport requirements are being instituted.

Three, many countries require visa applicants to submit valid passports that have at least six months validity remaining from the time of entry into the country. Applying early for the renewal would insure that your passport met this requirement.

See more here: <http://www.us-passport-service-guide.com/when-can-i-renew-my-passport.html>

Here's more on renewing, from the State Department:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/renew.html>

And here's info on getting a new US passport:

<https://www.usps.com/international/passports.htm>

21. When Can You Renew Your CBP Trusted Traveler / Global Entry Card?

Here's that info for you from CBP (Customs & Border Patrol):

https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/1348/~/renew-global-entry-membership

22. Where To Buy Toppers Rhum In The USA

If you find the manager of your favorite liquor store, you can ask for Toppers Rhum by name there. If they haven't heard of it ask if they will look it up and you will likely find that they have a telephone directory-like catalog of Rums they can order — and Toppers may very well be in it.

Melanie Daboul writes, "We are in all Total Wine & More stores that sell liquor (a few sell only wine and beer) <http://www.totalwine.com/store-finder> They are in 19 states."

Also, "Topper's Rhum is available for purchase online through Your Wine Cellar.

<http://www.yourwinecellar.biz/main.asp?request=search&search=Topper%27s+Rhum>

There is a minimum order requirement of \$100, but that can be used to buy any of their products such as wine or other spirits or more Topper's Rhum. They distribute worldwide except for MS, NH and PA. You can also contact them directly (Phone: 786-406-6080, Email: info@yourwinecellar.biz) for special requests or if your country/location is not listed on their site."

Now you have no excuse to be without Toppers Rhum....

More stories follow.

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.

23. News: Free, Immediate News Updates on our Everything SXM Facebook Site

When critically important news breaks, we try to get the information to our JMB Website Supporters members quickly through our relatively new JMB Website Supporters site on Facebook. If you're a JMB member, go to that site and join it — we told you its web address in Bulletins several times over the last few months. There are many reasons to read bulletins we send to JMB Website Supporters members only; they always contain useful information. We will mention that web address again in a bulletin coming this week.

We also, increasingly often, communicate important news to readers of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). So, definitely join that site to make sure you get the news quickly, since it could well impact you personally.

24. Melange Restaurant Offers New Menu

Melange international restaurant at Port de Plaisance resort has a new menu which we will post on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) most likely today or tomorrow. In the meantime, if you are on the island this month, you may be interested in their buy one get one free entrée offer for April only. See this link: <http://tinyurl.com/kvsztvz>

The link goes to a Facebook page and will probably be visible only to Facebook users.

25. Kokomo is Closing Until November

Kokomo Restaurant, on Cay Bay, home of the upscale Indigo Bay residential community, is closing until sometime in November, when it reopens for high season. At that time, Kokomo says it will be offering something special to our JMB Website Supporters members.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

26. Roadwork Closes Some Streets; Where To Get Updates

Off-Season roadworks are progressing from time to time at a number of locations, particularly on the Dutch side. When these are scheduled, we post the news on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook site](#) — so join it (free of course) and keep an eye on it daily for matters of interest about the island, including roadwork notifications sent out by the Dutch side government.

26a. JMB/SkyMed Member from Fla. Gets Emergency Med. Evacuation from Corfu, Greece

A Florida MD on vacation on the island of Corfu, off Greece, within the last week suffered an accident there and immediately called SkyMed for help. Since he needed emergency surgery, he was flown in a medevac jet to Athens, where he underwent the surgery this past week. As soon he is sufficiently stable for the long flight home to Florida, SkyMed will make the arrangements for that evacuation as well.

SkyMed takes you home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured almost anywhere and have a SkyMed Ultimate membership, or standard SkyMed membership with the inexpensive global option. Please don't ever risk traveling without it; that could require you to pay the entire cost of the medical evacuation in cash in advance, which could easily be over \$50,000 or well over twice that should you be overseas.

Please visit www.getskymed.com now for more information. To talk with Jeff and get your questions answered, either email jeff@getskymed.com or phone Jeff directly at 508-747-8281, our line for SkyMed questions only.

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: Dany & John's

Dany and John own and operate the Informal beach bar at Cupecoy beach. Their enterprise offers chair and umbrella rentals, lots of liquid refreshments, and when busy, Lolo food on the beach. Their chicken is absolutely delicious, one of the best Lolo chickens on the island. And in season they frequently have lobsters as well. By tradition, Cupecoy is also clothing optional, so you can have a great lunch and get a beautiful tan without those ugly tan lines, if you like. Definitely go and tell Dany and John we sent you.

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 the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017)
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 #19

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:

Tutta Pasta for many years was a standout Italian restaurant located in the Simpson Bay yacht club. Using many traditional pasta recipes, the restaurant served hundreds of people every week, perhaps a majority of them from local timeshares.

Although the food wasn't gourmet (it use boxed Barilla pasta), it was nonetheless delicious. One of our favorites was pasta and cheese with chunks of salmon, something we started making ourselves at home and have enjoyed ever since. Many of our Indian friends loved Tutta Pasta because of the huge variety of pastas it offered in the generosity of the portions. Pricing was good, too.

Steadman Warren decided to close his restaurant last fall, and it is missed by many.

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

19 - Tutta Pasta D

Coming next: Wendy's (D)

Got suggestions for future articles? 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.

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 some major stories we're working on for upcoming issues. The feature will appear when appropriate (not every week).

Here's some of what's coming:

-- We're continuing to keep 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 soon.

Look for **Periscope** here next week.

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 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. 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 www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

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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