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#1094 --- Monday, 4/24/2017 News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

**Lodging News** 

Members SECRET Webite Login

### **Member News**

# 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 <u>send-only</u> email address. For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u> at the end of this newsletter.

#### Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml
On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

#### Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

#### TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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### In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

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- -- Gendarmes Seize and Destroy Dozens of Illegal Scooters & Dirt Bikes as Crackdown Accelerates
- -- Lee's May Be Closing May 12
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- -- Sunwing Gets Marketing Funds from Dutch Side Tourism Budget

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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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml</a> 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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</a> 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:

**RENTAL** 5/28/2017 6/4/2017 Week 21 Royal Islander Club LaPlage One bedroom one bathroom ocean and pool view unit. Sleeps 4 people. \$1,000 Tom 410-371-1534exlash@comcast.net

#### SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

**SALE** 2/3/2018 2/10/2018 Week 5 WESTIN DAWN BEACH RESORT 1800 sq. ft. 3BR/2BT. Fixed week that can be floated. Fixed week is top floor of highest building with panoramic view! Master has walk in closet and luxury bath. Full kitchen with granite counter top and stainless appliances. TV in every room. Use of all amenities of Westin (spa, restaurants, pool, beach, casino)! Garage Parking. Laundry room with W/D so you can pack light. Heavenly Bed and linens same as in Westin. Westin room service available. \$14,000.00 STEVE 864-420-7034 JUDGEBARTLETT@GMAIL.COM

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

See them all at <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare</a> 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

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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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

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- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

Visit <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret">http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</a>, 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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</a>. 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. Sunwing Gets Marketing Funds from Dutch Side Tourism Budget

Airlines doing business in St. Maarten have often complained that they get no monetary assistance from the island. Indeed, many other destinations provide significant marketing funds to airlines to help improve airlift and enhance tourism -- and the income that comes from it.

As we've said before, St. Maarten spends next to nothing on promoting itself yet it complains about inadequate revenues. Perhaps if it prioritized marketing spending like Aruba does (Aruba spends well over \$20 million per year on tourism promotion, SXM next to nothing), it would get the increased tourism it wants and the revenue it says it needs.

In this case, SunWing, a Canadian airline providing service to St. Maarten, somehow convinced the tourism department to give it over \$300,000. We don't quite understand how SunWing earned this ahead of many US airlines that bring in many more passengers and have greater capacity to increase their airlift, but of course it wasn't our decision or our money.

Here's the story:

https://thedailyherald.sx/islands/65234-tourist-bureau-negotiates-new-agreement-with-sunwing-airlines

#### 2. KLM to Add Fourth Weekly Nonstop from Amsterdam

Although thousands of tourists were sad to see KLM 747s disappear from St. Maarten, those same 747s provided service by way of Curaçao, which made the flight a rather tedious waste of time for SXM passengers.

What KLM did is change to nonstop flights aboard smaller Airbus aircraft. Those flights have much more passenger appeal since they're nonstops, so St. Maarten passengers are not delayed in Curação.

The flights have been so successful that KLM is now planning an additional flight per week. Here's the story: <a href="https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/65305-klm-adds-another-flight-to-st-maarten">https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/65305-klm-adds-another-flight-to-st-maarten</a>

#### 3. Early-Week Flooding As Heavy Easter Rainstorm Moves Away Slowly

Heavy rains in St. Maarten a week ago caused widespread street flooding and delayed many flights on Easter Sunday.

The dreary weather continued Monday and Tuesday, with skies finally brightening midweek last week. There were times when visitors were wondering if the entire week would be lost, but the sun was shining and the beaches were occupied by midweek.

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

Check our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u> each day for daily weather updates. You'll find forecasts by clicking *Weather* on our main SXM website, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

#### 5. 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 <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>, which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- d) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see <a href="https://www.island92.com">www.island92.com</a>. 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.

# 6. 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 <a href="https://www.skymedtravel.com/register">https://www.skymedtravel.com/register</a>, 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 <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a> today; email Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at <a href="jeff@getskymed.com">jeff@getskymed.com</a> with the subject "SkyMed". Include your phone number & time zone.

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

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

# 7. Extra-Day Rentals Available at Simpson Bay Resort; Where to Reserve Them

After its \$35 million renovation — funded partly by timeshare owners and partly by Royal Resorts — Simpson Bay, as we mentioned last week, is virtually an entirely new resort with new everything, floor-to-ceiling. Even most stairways and lavatories have been completely redone.

The resort is very busy during high season but like most St. Maarten resorts, it has space available at off-season prices during low season. Since many timeshare owners fly to St. Maarten before their weeks begin -- both for extra time on SXM and to avoid heavy weekend crowds at SXM Airport, they look for accommodations for those extra few days. We've long recommended great places like <u>Summit Resort</u> in Cupecoy and <u>Baker's Suites</u> in Simpson Bay, which have made those two Dutch side hotels highly popular destinations because of their locations and amenities.

Now, through a new agreement with Simpson Bay Resort, we will soon be offering visitors to our <a href="https://www.everythingSXM.com">www.everythingSXM.com</a> website the ability to reserve extra days at Simpson Bay online directly from the timeshare rental/sale page of our site. We expect the rental screen to be implemented on our site within roughly the next week or two. Whether you own timeshare weeks on the island or rent weeks from other timeshare owners on our site, you will now be able to reserve a few extra days on our site directly from Simpson Bay without having to go to their site or to call anyone. We'll let you know when this new feature is live through an announcement on our <a href="https://www.everythingSt.">Everything St.</a>

Maarten Facebook Site as well as a follow-up article here in SXM Weekly News.

# 8. Hordes of New Timeshare Rentals Now Available on Our Timeshare Rental / Sale Page

Many new St. Maarten timeshare rental and sale ads arrived at our Massachusetts headquarters recently and now they've all been posted to the timeshare rentals/sales page of our <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a> main St. Maarten website. To see the ads, just click *Timeshare Condos for Rent* on the site.

## 9. Villa Onyi Members-Only & Retail Rates Now Published -- Where to Find Them

In a special mailing to all JMB Website Supporters members on Saturday, they were notified in detail of the special low JMB members-only rates now available for stays at Villa Onyi in Point Blanche through April, 2018. The mailing completed on Saturday night.

If you are a JMB Website Supporters member and didn't receive the mailing, go <a href="here">here</a> to get a copy of the rates PDF. Your username and password are not required for this download. <a href="Again, prices apply to JMB Website Supporters">Again, prices apply to JMB Website Supporters</a> members exclusively and are not available to the general public. If you're still not a member, see story 15 in this issue and join now. Our Anniversary Sale ends Wednesday April 26 and will not be further extended. <a href="Optonline.net subscribers">Optonline.net subscribers</a>: your mailing is being sent separately today (Monday).

Villa Onyi is the hilltop villa in Point Blanche with stunning views of the Caribbean and of St. Barths, St. Kitts, and Nevis 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, two-bathroom villa with its own private pool and full gourmet kitchen. It's quite gorgeous inside and out.

To contact the owner's representative, use these numbers: 1-721-524-7503 or 580-8909 or 1-721-553-1404. Or email them at <a href="mailto:onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com">onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com</a> . Have your current, active JMB Website Supporters Membership Card ready.

More stories follow.

### **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 <a href="Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site">Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</a>. Multiple finishes -- gold, silver, etc. - are offered. Current, valid JMB membership card required as is a government-issued photo ID. <a href="Contact Jeff at DK Gems">Contact Jeff at DK Gems</a>,. 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.

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

*14.* 

When you suddenly need

an emergency medical evacuation,

it's too late to buy SkyMed.

Get SkyMed <u>before</u> 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)

15. JMB 15th Anniversary Membership Sale Must End on Wednesday April 26:

About 300 SXM Discounts --

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

Renewals/Reinstatements: 1 Yr. \$34, Five Years \$109

#### **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

# 16. Wrong-Way Car Driven by Anguillan Crashes Into Commuting Rum & Peas Employees

In Anguilla, the British island which is St. Maarten's closest neighbor, drivers follow the traditional British practice of driving on the left, not the right as in the US or St. Maarten.

When an Anguillan national was allegedly driving drunk a few days ago on St. Maarten, he was driving on the wrong side of the road. In the opposite direction, a carload of commuting employees from the Rum and Peas restaurant in Simpson Bay saw the Anguillan car approaching and swerved to avoid it. Meanwhile, the Anguillan driver realized he

was on the wrong side of the road and his car also swerved. Because both cars swerved in the same direction at the same time, a head-on crash resulted. Although most passengers suffered only cuts and bruises, one woman, a Rum and Peas employee, was seriously injured and was flown off the island on an emergency medical evacuation aircraft to a hospital in the Dominican Republic where she was immediately placed in their Intensive Care Unit.

Sherman Maarten, who owns Rum & Peas, told us yesterday that the woman has now been taken out of the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital in the Dominican Republic and is recovering. Other employees are also recovering from their injuries in SXM.

The restaurant continues to work to serve its many clients while some of its staff continues to recover from this near-calamity.

The police status of the driver of the alleged wrong way car was not known at press time.

## 17. Gendarmes Seize, Destroy Illegal Scooters & Dirt Bikes as Crackdown Accelerates

In January, gendarmes on the French side promised to intensify their campaign against illegal motorbikes and scooters that have long plagued their side of the island and that have been used in crimes on both sides of the island.

Tourists have often complained about young males driving scooters without license plates, doing wheelies with the front wheel off the road, and swerving in and out of traffic — sometimes on sidewalks.

The most intense enforcement activity we've heard of since this problem began occurred within the last week or so. You can read the details below, but for us the best part, frankly, was that seized, illegally operated motorbikes and scooters were taken to the French side dump where noxious substances were removed and the bikes were destroyed. The gendarmes deserve your thanks for this program.

Here's the full story from The Daily Herald:

https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/65233-some-28-scooters-moto-cross-bikes-seized-in-major-control

#### 18. Lee's May Be Closing May 12

Although the owner of Lee's Roadside Grill in Simpson Bay is still fighting his landlord to keep his venerable restaurant open, employees recently told us that the restaurant may be closing May 12, roughly a month and a half after the original expected closing date of March 31. We also asked multiple staff members whether the restaurant is seeking another location; they claimed not to know.

Lee's is in it to win it. As always, SXM Weekly News will keep you posted.

# 19. Horrors: Storm Causes Temporary Lobster Shortage at Some SXM Restaurants

The heavy rains and storm-tossed seas of a week ago created very difficult fishing conditions for the boats that sail the waters near Saba to bring lobsters to St. Maarten / St. Martin. There was little effect on many larger restaurants, which keep dozens of fresh lobsters on hand to have an ample supply for more than a week without new ones coming in. But for smaller restaurants, some ran out altogether, leading to temporary unhappiness among some tourists.

Later last week, stormy seas subsided a bit and lobster pools were expected to be replenished: all's well that ends well. Unless you're the lobster.

# 20. Repeating: 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. Important Renewal Notice for Five-Year SkyMed Ultimate Members

If you own a five year SkyMed Ultimate membership, we remind you that, as we reported for the last several weeks, SkyMed is about to launch a price increase on those memberships.

For a very short time, you can avoid the price increase by telling SkyMed to renew your five year ultimate membership automatically. Our understanding is that if you do that before the price increase takes effect, it should guarantee that you will be charged the same amount for your renewal that you paid when you signed up for your five-year Ultimate, or approximately \$2495. The price increase was originally scheduled to happen this month and we believe it is still imminent though the actual date has not yet been announced.

If you want to send this notice to SkyMed, you can email it to jeff@getskymed.com and he will forward it to the correct parties in Member Services at SkyMed.

The SkyMed Ultimate delivers more benefits for less money than any other SkyMed product. Annual and Multiyear SkyMed memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of what age you attain or what happens to your health. SkyMed pays all costs for your medical evacuation — there are no claim forms, no reimbursements, and no deductibles. To get yourself protected with SkyMed, call Jeff directly at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only) or email him at <a href="mailto:ieff@getskymed.com">ieff@getskymed.com</a>. SkyMed membership applications are often approved in as little as two business days, but we urge you to allow plenty of time before you next travel.

Here are two downloads that will be of special interest:

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

## 23. Update: JMB/SkyMed Member from Fla. Gets Emergency MedEvac Home from Greece

As we reported last week, a Florida MD who regularly visits SXM was on a visit to the island of Corfu off Greece very recently with his wife when he was involved in an accident and needed immediate surgery. He phoned SkyMed from Greece and an emergency medical evacuation was set up immediately to take him to Athens so the surgery could be performed quickly and effectively.

Once he was well enough to fly home, SkyMed paid for first class passage for him and his wife back to Florida along with a qualified medical attendant to make sure he was well taken care of all the way home. Both the original medical evacuation and the flight home with the medical attendant were paid for in full by SkyMed, as usual. The doctor may even be reading this issue of *SXM Weekly News* — and we welcome him back home and hope he is feeling much better.

SkyMed can help protect your health in a medical emergency by making sure you get safely evacuated. SkyMed takes you home when you're critically ill or injured anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and from all the nations in the Caribbean including Cuba. SkyMed's GETS program takes care of you in the rest of the world except where open hostilities are underway; SkyMed doesn't go to places like North Korea, Syria, Somalia, and Afghanistan, for example.Please see <a href="https://www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a>, and look at the SkyMed-related stories that follow.

This is serious stuff -- protect yourself today.

## 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.

# 24. 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).

# 25. 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 <u>now</u>, 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). <u>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.</u>

Contact <u>jeff@getskymed.com</u> 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 <u>www.getskymed.com</u>.

#### 26. Restaurant of the Week: Mr. Busby's Beach Bar

Only about 20 minutes away from Simpson Bay, in a gorgeous seaside setting in gazebos under palm trees, you'll find Mr. Busby's Beach Bar — a place which could easily be a prime setting for Caribbean-based motion pictures.

Not only is the setting breathtaking, breakfast and lunch at Busby's is about the best you'll find on the island. Day manager Laurell (pronounced Law-RELL) is rarely seen without her trademarked smile — and she knows how to serve up some of the best breakfasts and lunches you'll find anywhere.

Don't worry about summer heat: although you're in outside gazebos, if it's one of those rare days when tradewinds are calm, overhead ceiling fans do the trick. Plus, of course, you can get cold or hot libations of your choice any time during the day.

Lunches include a variety of sandwiches, seaside specialties, lots of different delicious salads, and lots more. And with their own Island Pizza just a few steps away, you can also get pizza made exactly as you want it for lunch or anytime after lunch.

At night, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar morphs into Daniel's by the Sea fine dining Italian restaurant. Both Busby's and Daniel's received our 2017 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence — look for it in the restaurant.

Last but not least, you might want to ask to sit in Jeff's office — it's about the neatest office you'll find anywhere on the island with a breathtaking view of the Caribbean and St. Barths on the horizon. Enjoy. (No, Jeff isn't buying.)

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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 <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a>.

Big Fish Restaurant <a href="https://www.bigfishsxm.com/">www.bigfishsxm.com/</a> (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, <u>www.canoasxm.com</u> (featured 4/10/17) Mario Bistro <u>www.mariobistrot.com/en/</u> 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, <a href="http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html">http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html</a> (featured 10/31/16)

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17)

Le Pressoir, <a href="http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com">http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com</a> (featured 7/6/15)

Temptation, <a href="http://www.temptation-sxm.com/">http://www.temptation-sxm.com/</a> (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 <a href="http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com">http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com</a> (featured 4/23/17)

Island Pizza, <a href="http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com">http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com</a> (featured 7/25/16)

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 9/19/16)

Papagayo, <a href="http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php">http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php</a> (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, <a href="https://www.vesnataverna.com">www.vesnataverna.com</a> (featured 1/9/17)

Topper's <a href="http://www.sxmtoppers.com/">http://www.sxmtoppers.com/</a> (featured 2/27/17)

Taloula Mango <a href="http://www.taloulamango.com/">http://www.taloulamango.com/</a> (featured 4/20/15)

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <a href="https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm">https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm</a> (featured 2/13/17)

#### 27. 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:

**Wendy's** made a very brief appearance on the island very roughly about 20 years ago. It seemed to come and go in the batting of an eyelash. The building was next door to the former Turtle Pier, behind the building currently used by Avis rent a car, if our memory serves correctly.

It was, of course, just another Wendy's, pretty much the same as Wendy's or Burger King or McDonald's back in the US. But for whatever reason, it didn't last long here and soon gave way to other ventures.

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
- 20 Wendy's (D)

Coming next: Risdon's Drive-In (D)

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

### 28. 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.

### 29. 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?

### 30. 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. <u>SkyMed is your free ticket home</u> aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to 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 <u>payable in cash in advance</u> 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 <a href="mailto:jeff@getskymed.com">jeff@getskymed.com</a> 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 <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a> or email Jeff at <a href="jeff@getskymed.com">jeff@getskymed.com</a> (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. <u>You do not want your protection to end just when you may need it most.</u>* 

Second, both <u>annual and multiyear SkyMed memberships</u> are essentially permanent coverage. *Once you've been approved and as long as you continue to pay your membership fee on time, <u>your membership cannot be discontinued as a result of advancing age or declining health</u> — 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 <a href="here">here</a>.

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 <a href="mailto:Jeff@GetSkyMed.com">Jeff@GetSkyMed.com</a>. He generally returns messages within 24 hours. To see <a href="mailto:online-frequently-asked-questions">online-frequently-asked-questions</a>, go here. You can also see his SkyMed site at <a href="mailto:www.GetSkyMed.com">www.GetSkyMed.com</a>.

<u>JMB members get serious discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships</u>. 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://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

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.

### 31. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits

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

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

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

Look here for our PDF archives: <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml</a>. 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 <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a> today; email Jeff at <a href="mailto:jeff@getskymed.com">jeff@getskymed.com</a> with the Subject "SkyMed".

#### 33. "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 -- and Lee's, too.
- -- 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://everythingsxm.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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml</a> 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 <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a>. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com/secret">www.everythingsxm.com/secret</a> .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: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>. You **CAN <u>NOT</u>** 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 <a href="www.sxmweeklynews.com">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. <a href="JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. <a href="JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. <a href="JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address for continued Secret Site access.

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

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http://www.everythingsxm.com . You cannot join by emailing us.

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

#### Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only \*secret\* website, <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret">http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</a> . 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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\_policy/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\_policy/index.shtml</a>

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