

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

#1095 --- Monday, 5/1/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website 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*

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2017. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book

to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

-- **Arlene, 2017's First Named Storm, Forms in Atlantic, Then Dissipates**

-- **High Winter Airfares To SXM Reflect Oil Price Instability; Will They Come Down?**

-- **Extra-Day Rentals & More at Simpson Bay Resort Can Now Be Reserved on Our Site**

-- **Online Reservations at Baker's Suites Now Available on Our Site**

-- **Government Gives Timeshare Sector 90 Days to React to "Timeshare Authority"; Help Deter The Timeshare Authority, An Expensive Bureaucracy You'd Pay For**

-- **Euro On The Rise, Closing in on \$1.10 to the Dollar**

-- **Gendarmes, Dutch Side Police Cooperation Growing Thanks to Treaty**

- **Heavy Easter Rains Didn't Add Mosquitoes -- But Be Cautious Anyway**
- **JMB/SkyMed Member from Fla. Comments on Emergency Med. Evac. from Greece**
- **Princess Cruises Paying \$40-million Fine in US for Dumping at Sea**
- **Get About 300 St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts & Benefits Through JMB Membership**
- **Restaurant of the Week:**
- **A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants**
- **Is Sargasso Seaweed Coming Back?**
- **Now They've Proven It: Going To the Beach is Good for You**
- **Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News**
- **Should You Buy a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages**
- **Restaurant of the Week**
- **A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants**
- **Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation**

33 news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

FLOATING WEEK 4/1/2017 10/28/2017 WEEK 13 to 43 ROYAL ISLANDER CLUB LA TERRASSE 1 studio unit for 2 people on 4th floor with large balcony overlooking the world famous Maho beach, manicured gardens and pool. King size bed. Free access to the beach at Royal Islander Club La Plage and the health club at Sonesta beach hotel across the street. Numerous quality restaurants, retail stores and Casino Royale within 5 minutes walk. Supermarket and bus stop on ground floor. No tax. Free Wi-fi. Next to 1 bedroom apartment check VRBO588509 for photos. 750\$ per week MARIE JOSE mjbazetoux@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 7/22/2017 8/5/2017 Week 29 and 30 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina One bedroom Deluxe with King Size bed, newly renovated unit, full bath, fully equipped kitchen, dining room and large living room, 2 pull down Murphy beds, large screen tv, in room safe, patio overlooking panoramic Simpson Bay. Olympic size pool, with swim up bar. Tennis courts, bakery, casino, restaurants, Marina, water sports, shopping, beautiful beach. \$7,000 each or \$13,000 for both weeks Greg 413-454-4548 glitt@comcast.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents.](#)

This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive:list=sxmweeklynews>

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

Section One: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather [Go To This Section](#)

1. Arlene, 2017's First Named Storm, Forms in Atlantic, Then Dissipates
2. "Today's SXM Weather" a Regular Feature On Our Everything SXM Facebook Site
3. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)
4. 110% Guarantee on Hotel & Car Rental Rates Through [SkyMed Travel Club](#)

See the story about airfares in Section Four.

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

5. Extra-Day Rentals & More at Simpson Bay Resort Can Now Be Reserved on Our Site
6. Online Reservations at Baker's Suites Now Available on Our Site
7. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Timeshare Owner Orientation...

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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

8. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates
9. May Member Benefits Update: Shopping
10. "Everything St. Maarten" Bracelets for JMB Members Now at DK Gems; Buy Some for Friends

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

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

12. Get About 300 St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts & Benefits Through JMB Membership

13. Government Gives Timeshare Sector 90 Days to React to "Timeshare Authority"; Help Deter The Timeshare Authority, An Expensive Bureaucracy You'd Pay For

14. High Winter Airfares To SXM Reflect Oil Price Instability; Will They Come Down?

15. Euro On The Rise, Closing in on \$1.10 to the Dollar

16. Heavy Easter Rains Didn't Add Mosquitoes -- But Be Cautious Anyway

17. Gendarmes, Dutch Side Police Cooperation Growing Thanks to Treaty

18. JMB/SkyMed Member from Fla. Comments on Emergency Med. Evac. from Greece

19. Huge Caribbean Cocaine Bust by Dutch Marines, USCG

20. Princess Cruises Paying \$40-million Fine in US for Dumping at Sea

21. Mothers Day in SXM; Specials from SXM Jewelers For JMB Members Only

22. Vacation Plans? Two Ways To Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period to Cover Pre-Existing Conditions

23. Disappears Soon: 10-Year Price Guarantee on New or Upgraded SkyMed Five-Year Ultimate Memberships

24. Restaurant of the Week:

25. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants

26. Is Sargasso Seaweed Coming Back?

27. Now They've Proven It: Going To the Beach is Good for You

- 28. Should You Buy a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages
- 29. 30-Day Free Look, No Age Limit When You Join SkyMed
- 30. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
- 31. Download List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
- 32. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News
- 33. Periscope

Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 12/31/14)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Arlene, 2017's First Named Storm, Forms in Atlantic, Then Dissipates

Officially, the 2017 hurricane season doesn't begin until June 1. But Mother Nature does her own thing, so on April 19, the first named tropical storm of the year formed far from any landmass in the middle of the Atlantic, only to hook up with another weather system and dissipate as a tropical storm a couple of days later.

This early storm's spin up really doesn't have any bearing on what may happen the rest of the season, meteorologists say. They still expect a lighter than average season except near the US East Coast and Gulf coasts, where water temperatures are expected to be a bit warmer than usual. The Caribbean is supposed to have an easier time, but of course, it only takes one storm to screw things up.

We'll be watching for you. See constantly updated satellite images and radar loops by clicking [Weather](#) on our site, www.everythingsxm.com. If any storms threaten St. Maarten this summer, we'll post the latest information on both our JMB Website Supporters page on Facebook, about which JMB members have been notified, and also on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which is moving steadily toward 10,000 likes.

2. "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 visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

3. 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.

4. 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

5. Extra-Day Rentals & More at Simpson Bay Resort Can Now Be Reserved on Our Site

Simpson Bay Resort's \$35 million renovation, completed just a few months ago, has created a genuine resurgence on demand for units at that property.

Although the resort is heavily booked during the winter months, during most of the year units remain available to be used not only for week-long vacations, but also for extra days before your timeshare unit is available there or anywhere else.

Through an exclusive agreement with Simpson Bay Resort, you can now reserve extra days at the resort year-round at very reasonable pricing. Please see our timeshare rental page on www.everythingsxm.com, our main St. Maarten website. Scattered in a few places among the timeshare rental listings, you will find a link to make your reservations at Simpson Bay Resort. Check it out -- it's a quick way to complete your plans.

6. Online Reservations at Baker's Suites Now Available on Our Site

Ever since it was built just a few years ago by the same family that owns Baker's Villa on Anguilla, Tropicana Car Rental on SXM, and the St. Maarten Party Bus, Baker's Suites in Simpson Bay opposite Atrium resort has been a huge hit. This all-suites boutique hotel has all the amenities and it is walking distance from Kim Sha beach, usually one of the island's most serene beaches, and dozens of restaurants are nearby. We toured the property just after it opened and again a few months ago after it finished renovations including the installation of a new elevator.

We've long recommended Baker's Suites to our JMB members and others; the Baker family has a great history of delivering excellent hospitality services to its many customers.

If you'd like to spend your vacation or a few days before your timeshare becomes available at a small, family-owned boutique hotel definitely check the availability at Baker's Suites to make your reservations. Baker's Suites is a small hotel with less than a dozen rooms and they run out quickly, so early reservations for the dates you want are highly recommended. You'll find their "Check Availability" link scattered among our timeshare rental listings for 2017 and 2018 now on www.everythingsxm.com.

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**

7. 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

8. "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.

9. May Member Benefits Update: Discounts on Shopping

Shopping for souvenirs, T-shirts, knickknacks, spirits, cigars, gifts, and of course jewelry is just about always on the priority list for tourists visiting St. Maarten / St. Martin. Our public site, www.everythingsxm.com, provides an interesting overview of shopping opportunities across the island.

Our secret website, www.everythingsxm.com/secret, available to JMB Website Supporters members exclusively, among its 300 or so total discounts offers dozens of discounts for all kinds of shopping on both sides of the island. Regardless of what you're looking for, *Shopping* is one of the most popular sections of our entire secret website and it can save you a significant amount of money as you complete your shopping excursions. If you're currently a JMB member, definitely check out the listings in our Discounts Master Index on the Secret Site. If you're not a member, join now; new one-year memberships are only \$59 and again they deliver close to 300 discounts and benefits. Pay much less per year when you get a *multiyear* membership — a full three years costs just \$99 total. Join today and start saving a bunch on your next SXM trip.

10. "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.

SECTION 4: Island

11.

**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)**

12. **Get About 300 St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts
& Benefits Through JMB Membership:**

One Year \$59, Three Years, Just \$99

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>

13. Government Gives Timeshare Sector 90 Days to React to "Timeshare Authority";

How To Help Derail The Timeshare Authority, An Expensive Bureaucracy You'd Pay For

In recent weeks, we reported multiple times that timeshare owners in St. Maarten may be in for a rude awakening when they return to the island since the government wants to establish a Timeshare Authority — an expensive new bureaucracy — to oversee and administer its new timeshare owner consumer protection legislation. Both of these pieces of legislation are being considered by Parliament now.

Although we believe that the timeshare consumer protection legislation is a good first step toward what timeshare owners expect in the way of protection legislation from the Dutch Side government, we reported that *the Timeshare Authority, in our opinion, is a vast overreach which will be expensive and unnecessary*. We know that there are alternatives to it which can be equally effective at a far, far lower cost. According to one estimate we've seen, the Timeshare Authority could cost timeshare owners a projected \$200 per timeshare week owned added to timeshare owners' Annual Maintenance Fees. We've seen full details of the proposal and we regard it as a ponderous behemoth where something far more streamlined would solve any issues much more quickly and, as we noted, at a tiny portion of the cost of the Authority.

The Dutch Side Parliament and top Dutch Side government leaders are reviewing the proposal and are giving the timeshare industry 90 days to offer feedback on the proposed Timeshare Authority legislation. We are delighted to note that there seems to be a groundswell of opposition to the Authority. We join that chorus of opposition: annual maintenance fees are high enough as it is, and the vast majority of resorts today are doing their jobs and doing them well. There can be a mechanism to solve disputes and ensure compliance with new laws that is far simpler, far cheaper, and far more effective than this ponderous, expensive proposed bureaucracy.

If you are timeshare owner, it is in your interests to write to both local newspapers now in opposition to this plan. The government must realize once again that timeshare owners — tens of thousands of them — are the single strongest pillar of the island economy and they are the people who have always supported the island regardless of what else is going on. They need to be treated with respect and care, not burdened with another big weekly expense which -- added to high airfares and the high cost of SXM in general -- could wind up costing the island's economy serious, irreparable harm.

More is [here](#). [This](#) is an Editorial from *The Daily Herald*.

14. High Winter Airfares To SXM Reflect Oil Price Instability; Will They Come Down?

The price of crude oil continues to rise, reflective not only of OPEC actions to reduce output but also of continued instability in the Middle East. That situation is unlikely to change, and it is currently affecting SXM airfares for next winter, which are very high. We are thinking that fares may well level off or perhaps even decline during the summer if crude oil prices level off. But if North Korea goes truly bonkers, all bets are off.

If you normally fly on weekends, we suggest you go ahead and get your fares now when many seats are available. If you can fly during the week, that might be a better option. If you do that, you can easily rent additional days to cover your early arrival; do that through [the new links on our site](#) mentioned in articles 5 and 6.

15. Euro On The Rise, Closing in on \$1.10 to the Dollar

The Euro, still used on the French Side, is continuing to rise against the dollar. Late last week it cost \$1.10 to buy

one Euro. That will affect your purchasing power at French side supermarkets and at many French side restaurants though thankfully, not at [Spiga](#) which has charged dollars and Euros at par for years.

It will be interesting to see what happens in the forthcoming French election, where one of the candidates wants to pull out of the European Union which would likely mean dumping the Euro if she wins.

We'll keep you posted.

16. Heavy Easter Rains Didn't Add Mosquitoes -- But Be Cautious Anyway

During the drought earlier this year, mosquitoes weren't a problem. Neither were Dengue fever, Chikungunya, or Zika. Heavy rains hit the island over the Easter holiday, raising concerns that the numbers of mosquitoes would increase. That does not appear to have happened, although there do appear to be a lot of "no-see-ums" -- the tiny biting insects that you don't see but feel after they munch on your ankles.

Both SXM governments have suggested a number of measures to fight any possible resurgence of mosquitoes, perhaps chief among them clearing standing water and wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants. We would add to that using Mosquito Milk, the local mosquito repellent that has proven very effective for many years. It's commonly available in most larger markets as well as virtually all pharmacies. We recommend the roll-on version which is handy and stronger than the spray.

17. Gendarmes, Dutch Side Police Cooperation Growing Thanks to Treaty

A treaty consummated not long ago between the French and Dutch sides has led to increased cooperation between the police of the two countries regarding crime-fighting and related matters. [This](#) is one small example of that cooperation.

18. JMB/SkyMed Member from Fla. Comments on Emergency Med. Evac. from Greece

Bob B., an MD from Florida whose identity we previously did not disclose, was the man who was medically evacuated by SkyMed from the island of Corfu off the coast of Greece to Athens for emergency surgery a couple weeks ago, and was subsequently evacuated from Athens back home to Florida by SkyMed. Here are his comments:

"I just read of our adventure in your newsletter of a day or two ago...I have never been so notorious!

"Seriously, I appreciate your follow-up on my injury, and am happy to report that we are home safely. I had suffered a serious leg injury while on a Viking Ocean Cruise in Corfu, Greece. I was ambulated off the ship to a local private hospital where I spent 3 days being stabilized. SkyMed then arranged transfer via air ambulance, with a medical doctor, to a much more appropriate facility in Athens, Greece where I underwent surgery 3 days later.

"And SkyMed did do their job well. Eight days later, when ready for discharge, a nurse was flown over from the States who accompanied us home safely and with expertise through all the airports. All connections were on time with vans and ambulances, and I was literally wheeled right onto our bed in our Florida home at about 2:00 a.m. after 2 weeks of Greek hospitalization...my [medical] escort and I were indeed ticketed First Class.

"It was a long tiring trip, but I am recovering at home, as promised. We actually are VERY glad that we read your SXM newsletter regularly, and that you continually promote the services of SkyMed. They did what we needed, and did it well! We had the 3 year Ultimate contract which allowed essentially worldwide services...'just what the doctor ordered.' FYI, we have spread the word quite extensively to our many friends who travel about this service, and I fully expect SkyMed to be hearing from many of them."

Bob is recovering in Florida and we wish him a quick, full recovery.

Get SkyMed protection for *your* family; see www.getskymed.com. Don't put it off....

19. Huge Caribbean Cocaine Bust by Dutch Marines, USCG

For months, there has been a sharp increase in drug shipment interdictions throughout the Caribbean to stem the flow of illegal drugs to the US and elsewhere.

On multiple occasions, interdictions have been carried out by the Dutch Navy and members of the US Coast Guard. Here's the story of one very recent [cocaine seizure](#).

20. Princess Cruises Paying \$40-million Fine in US for Dumping at Sea

Princess Cruise Lines Ltd. has been ordered to pay a \$40 million fine to the US for illegal dumping in the ocean off England in 2013.

Here are [the details of the story](#).

21. Mothers Day in SXM; Specials from SXM Jewelers For JMB Members Only

The folks at JMB Website Supporters tell us they're expecting to mail some neat jewelry promotions to all JMB Website Supporters members early this week in anticipation of Mother's Day. The holiday is widely celebrated in SXM -- if you're on the island, check local papers for details.

There are several fine florists on SXM; our favorite is the one upstairs in the Carrefour building on the Union Road near Port de Plaisance.

Guys, you can use those when you bring her one of the jewelry gifts offered to JMB Website Supporters members. Our women readers who are JMB members can simply print the bulletin that's coming and shove it under your husband's face while he's watching a playoff game....

[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. Visit www.getskymed.com.

22. 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).

23. 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 shortly 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.

24. Restaurant of the Week: Big Fish (Way More Than Fish)

Regardless of whether you like fish, Big Fish is a restaurant you must try, if you haven't already. Located in a beautiful facility that was heavily renovated a couple of years ago, Big Fish has a giant menu offering a spectrum of different flavors — not just fish. If you love beef or poultry, there's plenty to go around — plus highly imaginative appetizers and luscious desserts.

Big Fish lives up to its name on the Sushi side of the house, too. Their highly imaginative sushi chef really knows his stuff — the truly creative sushi rolls are absolutely delicious. The restaurant's head chef is Wendell Laurence, formerly head chef and Izi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay where he learned from David Foini, one of the best restaurateurs in the business.

Make reservations, come early, and stay late — it's that kind of restaurant and you will love it. You'll find more about [Big Fish](#) in the seafood article noted below.

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 5/1/17)
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 4/23/17)
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)

25. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #20

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:

If we remember correctly Risdon's Drive-in was Located in Philipsburg, where the current Today newspaper office is. That was about 35 years ago and in fact it could also have been in Marigot. We do remember there were drive in restaurants at both locations. It was a burgers/fries place, we don't remember whether there were car hops (we somehow doubt it) but we do remember the name and that the hamburgers to us were slightly better than average, probably because we were having them on SXM....

Readers: we're looking for your suggestions about other restaurants; see the bottom of this article and let us know so we can start featuring your ideas.

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)
- 21 - Risdon's Drive-In (D?)

Coming next: Dawn Beach Hotel Restaurant (D) and later, Zachary'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.*

26. Is Sargasso Seaweed Coming Back?

The St. Maarten Nature Foundation thinks so, and says the seaweed that plagued islands in the Caribbean and beaches in the US Southeast may be returning. Here's [that story](#).

27. Now They've Proven It: Going To the Beach is Good for You

[Have a look](#). If you ever felt guilty enjoying sand gravity, this article justifies you.

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. 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.](#)

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: [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

32. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.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".

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.

-- We're listing all winners of our 2017 Everything SXM Awards of Excellence this month (May).

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?>

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2017. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. *Everything St. Maarten*, *Everything SXM*, and *Everything St. Martin* are service marks of JMB Communications. *JMB Communications* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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

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

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

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

5/1/17 #1095 4/29/17 400P EDT 7.9

| [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2017. World rights reserved.

###