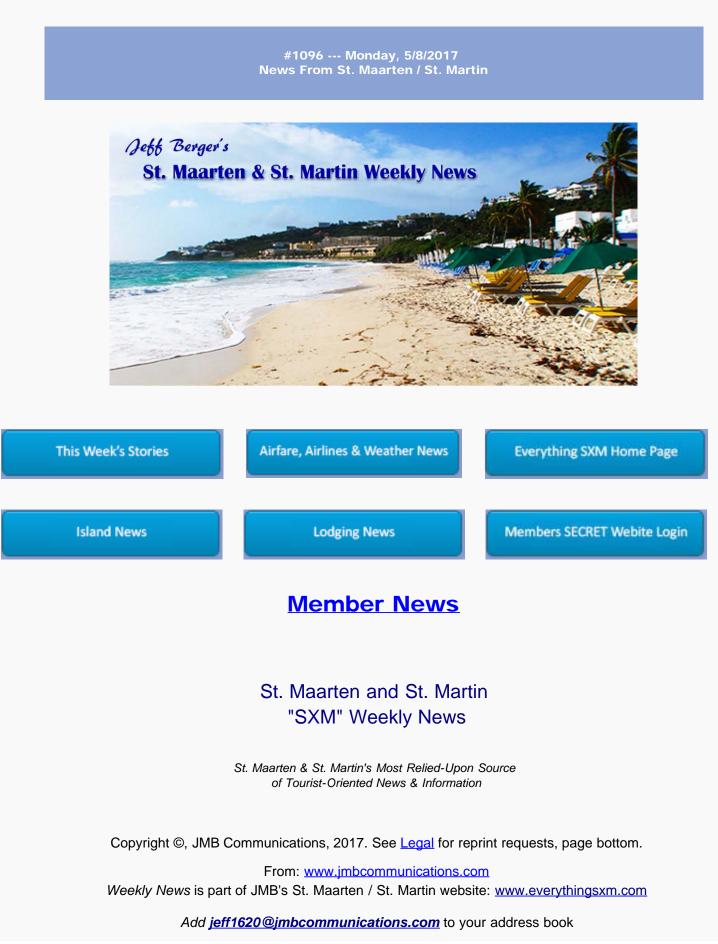
Can't see this newsletter? Go here.



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 <u>St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News</u> 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:

<u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml</u> 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:

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- -- New Real-Time SXM Weather Observations Added To Our Home & Weather Pages
- -- Read The Details: That Emergency Medical Evacuation from Greece
- -- Make Mothers Day Reservations Now
- -- Get Extra Days (or Weeks) Thru Online Reservations at Simpson Bay & Bakers Suites
- -- Mothers Day Jewelry Specials for JMB Members Only
- -- Our Sum-Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway Begins Thursday
- -- SXM Summer Vacations: Top Ten Reasons

- -- Vesna Taverna Dinner Service (ONLY) Is On Vacation 'til 5/16; Breakfast, Lunch Served -- Lee's Restaurant Update
- -- Sargasso Seaweed Returns, But It's Dispatched Every Morning
- -- Restaurant of the Week
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- -- A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants
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- **35** news stories this week

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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:

RENTAL 3/11/2018 3/18/2018 Week 10 The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort and Marina This Unit, on the third floor, consists of a Master (A) and Junior Suites (B) and accommodates 6 people. Master suite consists of a full kitchen, King size bed/master bedroom, 2 Murphy beds/living room with TV, dining/living room, spacious bathroom with separate double vanity area. Large deck overlooks Simpson Bay. Junior suite (B) has 2 full beds, TV, small kitchen, dorm size refrigerator, microwave, toaster, and coffee maker. The bathroom is spacious with a separate double vanity area. Deck overlooks Simpson Bay & Pool. Resort has restaurants, casino, gym, tennis courts, bakery, pools, and a beautiful beach. Master suite: \$1600; Junior Suite \$1,200. Rent both or individually. Greg. 413.454.4548 glitt@comcast.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/3/2018 3/17/2018 Week 9, week 10 Villas at Simpson Bay Villa with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Can be used as full 2 bedroom unit that sleeps 8, also can be split to one bedroom, and one studio. Master has king size bed an full bath, living room, full kitchen. Lock off has two queen beds with full bath. Small fridge and microwave. This is an end unit, waterfront, overlooking marina. Restaurants, exercise room, pools, casino, shops and much more on site. Week 9 is regatta week. \$ 14,900 per week Joyce/ 603-224-1833 jecoburn@comcast.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsxm.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

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

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Find us or f Facebook

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

A. Where to Get Member Info: <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>

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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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 <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, 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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>. 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. United, Delta Defy Common Sense -- and Ignore Customer Satisfaction

We often think of the late 1990s, when American Airlines touted "more room in coach" with TV ads showing rows of seats being removed from airplanes to give passengers much more legroom.

Whatever happened to the common sense reflected in those ads? It seems that airlines today are Hell-bent on making passengers suffer through whatever time they must spend aboard airplanes.

Our last flight on American was late in 2012, when we flew on a ridiculously cramped 737(?) jet that was the most uncomfortable in my experience flying. Despite the fact that I still have AA airline miles, I vowed that day to avoid AA wherever possible.

Some other airlines, of course, are far worse — Spirit, the low-frills airline, may well care the least of any airline about customer satisfaction, based upon unscientific, anecdotal comments from passengers who pretty much universally tell us about what they regarded as routinely abysmal customer service.

In the episode which occurred a few weeks ago, the formerly friendly skies of United turned downright hostile when goons operating under the authority of the airline forcibly removed a doctor from a seat he had paid for so employees could be dead-headed to another city. Thanks to the alert passengers who taped and posted the debacle, United's stock tanked, the airline's reputation nosedived, and its CEO, Oscar Munoz, showed himself to be an uncaring fool when he did nothing about his company's massive PR crisis for days after it had happened.

Crisis PR 101 should have ruled the day at United when this first happened, where Munoz should have gotten in

front of this mess, vowed to solve it, apologized, and change policies, all within a few hours of it having hit social media. It took him days to do any of that; he simply stonewalled, aggravating a situation that was already a huge debacle for United. By then, the damage was done. Sorry, United, I'm not flying you either.

Adding to the unrelenting stupidity of some legacy US airlines, Delta Customer Service goons told a young family that a seat it had paid for had to be given up so the airline could give it to somebody else. When the father of the one-year-old child who occupied the paid-for seat reminded the airline goons that he had paid for the seat, they told him the whole family had to get off the plane, that he might wind up in jail, and that he might lose custody of his own children.

We would hope that the idiots who provided this lesson in goonsmanship on behalf of Delta have been fired. That airline, fortunately, had the good sense to get on top of this issue at once, apologizing to the family, reimbursing them, and taking care of business and customers. Perhaps United should pay some attention to what Delta did; Spirit, you, too.

Airlines routinely overbook to fill seats for use if some passengers fail to show up. If airlines simply charge for seats and make them noncancelable up to an hour before flight time, the problem would be solved since the seats would be paid for even if the passenger didn't show.. There is no reason overbooking should be allowed, let alone condoned.

On a broader level, airlines need to go back to what American was doing years ago by providing more room in coach: orienting its product toward customer convenience, comfort, and trip enjoyment. JetBlue has been doing that for years and has been growing consistently every year as a result. One would hope that the changes all airlines make are built upon a foundation of ensuring customer satisfaction in every component of air travel. Otherwise, some airlines still flying simply won't be around much longer.

We thought this cogent comment -- from a Boston-area attorney who is also a frequent flyer -- makes this entire situation perfectly clear:

"What in heavens name are the airlines doing. Two major airlines are going to [further -Ed.] decrease the leg room between seats to 29 inches. Are they aware that Americans are bigger then they were two generations ago. Our cars, our house chairs, our seats in movie theaters have all gotten bigger and more comfortable. Why is [it] that the airlines are boxing us in for 3 to 6 hours. Not only do you have to worry about getting booted off a plane for over booking now you have to be confined to a torture chamber. Just think of all the hassles and indignities you have to go through before you even get onto a plane now your entire trip will be a hassle. Better we drive." - Laurence N. Aiello

2. "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 visiting our main SXM website, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

3. New Real-Time SXM Weather Observations Added To Our Home & Weather

Pages

We've just added to the weather coverage on our website, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. Both the homepage and the Weather page of the site now include real-time weather monitoring, in addition to recent observations and the local SXM forecast. You'll find the real-time observations to be the second item listed in the Weather boxes on both pages. Again, the new listings are real-time — what you see is what's happening now.

4. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)

Here they are:

a) Crown Weather Services whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.

SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News

b) Our "Weather" page at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> -- 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 <u>www.island92.com</u>. 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 <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <u>http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG</u> .

N. B.: Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.

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

<u>SkyMed offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations</u>. 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 <u>https://www.skymedtravel.com/register</u>, 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 <u>www.getskymed.com</u> today; email Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at <u>jeff.berger@skymed.com</u> with the subject "SkyMed". Include your phone number & time zone.

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

advancing age or declining health. Contact us today.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. SXM's Best Timeshare Resorts

We just updated this page of our site; take a close look at <u>SXM's Best Timeshare Resorts</u>. There's a comment on how to get low fares when you go, too. See next story.

7. Where To Nail Down Your SXM Timeshare Rentals for Next Winter

The best way to rent out a timeshare in St. Maarten is directly from timeshare owners, where there are no middleman fees or commissions involved to inflate your bottom line price.

That's exactly what you get on the timeshare rental/sale and villa rental page of our site.We list hundreds of weeks in all seasons, and we give you dependable contact information for the renters — all of whom are our JMB Website Supporters members.

Plus, it's not too early to reserve your 2017 - 2018 winter rental now. Check it out. See also story 6.

8. Get Extra Days or Weeks w/ Online JMB Reservations at Simpson Bay &

Bakers Suites

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 winter, 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 a new agreement with **Simpson Bay Resort**, you can now reserve extra days at the resort year-round at very reasonable pricing on our site. Please see our timeshare rental page on <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>, our main St. Maarten website. Scattered in a few places among the timeshare rental listings, you'll find a link to make extra-day or extra-week reservations at Simpson Bay Resort. Check it out -- it's a quick way to complete your plans.

If you'd like to spend your vacation -- or a few days before your timeshare becomes available -- at a new, small, family-owned boutique hotel in the heart of Simpson Bay, definitely check the availability at **Baker's Suites** to make your reservations. Baker's Suites has 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>

9. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Owner Orientations

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

SECTION 3: Member

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

This section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB.

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

11. 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, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>, provides an interesting overview of shopping opportunities across the island.

Our secret website, <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, 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.

12. "Everything St. Maarten" Bracelets for JMB Members Only Are 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 <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>. Multiple finishes -- gold, silver, etc. - are offered. Current, valid JMB membership card required as is a government-issued photo ID. <u>Contact Jeff at DK Gems</u>,. Phone and online orders can be accepted if you send valid JMB membership and ID info. Shipping charge applies.

"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

13.

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. <u>www.getskymed.com</u>

Email Jeff with SkyMed Questions: jeff.berger@skymed.com (new email address) Include your phone number and time zone for a call back.

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

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

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

<u>New JMB memberships</u> http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

15. Read The Details About That Emergency Medical Evacuation from Greece

SkyMed/Global ETS Member with Femur Injury aboard Cruise Ship Evacuated from Athens, Greece to Orlando, Florida

by Bob & Bette Burgfechtel

The Villages, Florida

Recently my wife, Bette, and I were on a Viking Mediterranean cruise from Venice to Greece. While on the ship I suffered an unusual injury to my right femur which was very painful. My wife got help immediately and shortly after that our cabin was full of people. I was transported to a nearby hospital via local ambulance and was admitted for a broken femur. As a physician, I knew I needed surgery, but this private hospital lacked the medical equipment and postoperative care I would need afterwards. That's when I called SkyMed.

SkyMed arranged to transport me to a hospital in Athens via air ambulance for specialty orthopedic care. Jim Edwards called us and said we would be picked up and put on an air transport plane with a medical doctor on board and that when we got to hospital, the orthopedic doctor would greet us. He said they would, and they did. We arrived on Sunday, April 9, my surgery was on Wednesday, April 12, and I was discharged on Thursday, April 20. SkyMed also flew in a medical escort nurse from the United States to assist me in getting back to Florida. He was super, a great asset, and knew what he was doing.

How did you find out about SkyMed/Global ETS and why did you choose SkyMed/Global ETS? We heard about SkyMed through Jeff Berger's *St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News* newsletter. We bought our membership through his website and what we bought was exactly what we needed as the plan we purchased includes Global Emergency Travel Services.

What would you tell your friends about your experience with Global ETS? Everything was seamless and I'm recommending SkyMed to everyone. A lot of our friends will want to know about this and we're telling them!

To learn more about SkyMed, see the SkyMed articles elsewhere in this issue or visit <u>www.getskymed.com</u>.

16. Listen to "Island Radio" From SXM Wherever You Go

With on-air personalities from the US, Island92 radio delivers island-related talk, rock, blues, and good time music to listeners both on St. Maarten and on several nearby islands as well as live streaming around the world to any Internet-enabled device at <u>www.island92.com</u>. You'll never be far away from SXM as long as you're listening to Island92 anywhere you go.

17. Make Mothers Day Reservations Now

Mother's Day is only one week away and it's not too early to make reservations at popular island restaurants if you're fortunate enough to be spending next week in SXM.

This coming week, you're sure to see a number of posts from top restaurants on our <u>Everything St. Maarten</u> <u>Facebook site</u>. Or, just call your favorite restaurant and make reservations now while the best times are still readily available.

18. Mothers Day Jewelry Specials for JMB Members Only

If you're a JMB Website Supporters member, Expect email from JMB Website Supporters Membership Services tomorrow (Tuesday). That mail contains jewelry specials from some of the island's top jewelers — extraordinary pricing for JMB members only. And there's still time for quick shipping. If you're still not a JMB Website Supporters member, you'll find savings on everything related to St. Maarten / St. Martin — with roughly 300 discounts as part of

your membership. Much more information is available by clicking the page curl at the top of our homepage at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

19. Our Sum-Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway Begins Thursday

Our main Everything St. Maarten website, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>, surpassed five million visitors in April. To celebrate, in March we had given away 14 vacations, and we announced the winners here in *SXM Weekly News*. When we surpassed five million visits, our five millionth visitor won a one-week vacation on the island at a location to be determined during our next major giveaway, most likely in April or May of next year when we hope to surpass 5.5 million visits. Our hit counter is near the top of our homepage at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

In the meantime there's a lot about St. Maarten you don't know — especially what a great vacation spot it is every summer. See the next article for details.

To celebrate summertime in SXM, this Thursday we'll be launching our Sum-Sum-Summertime giveaway. Starting today, we're talking about all of the advantages of coming to the island during the summer, when things are serene and gorgeous — and hot-hot-hot in really good ways. See the next article, and watch your email on Thursday for information on how to enter.

20. SXM Summer Vacations: Top Ten Reasons

1. Much less traffic than during high season (winter).

- 2. Much lower prices for car rentals and accommodations.
- 3. No competition for sand space at any island beaches.

4. Uncrowded restaurants mean less waiting and less need for making reservations except on holidays.

5. The ocean is warmer -- well up in the 80s. July is a picture-perfect month: clear skies, low humidity, no sweltering like you'd get staying home (near-constant ocean breezes are a great help). You gotta come, mon...

6. All restaurants are open, so you can go to your favorites night after night after night with no crowds.And everything tastes better in SXM...

7. Plane watching is easier at Maho beach because there are fewer tourists, though cruise ship people are still here. As an experienced stayover tourist, you can point at them when a departing plane blows them into the ocean. (No offense.)

8. Etna Ice Cream melts very slowly no matter how hot it gets. And it's creamier and tastes better than the stuff you get at home.

9. Jewelers may just make the best deals of the year since there are fewer customers around during summer -- leaving you more time to haggle.

10. We'll leave number 10 open for you to fill in after you vacation in SXM this Summer. Stay tuned... we'll be looking for what you feel #10 should be. It might just win you something.

21. Vesna Taverna Dinner (ONLY) Is On Vacation 'til 5/16; Breakfast & Lunch

Served

Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay is open as usual every day for breakfast and lunch while Vesna and Yannick are spending a little time in Europe. Vesna Taverna will reopen for dinner on Wednesday, May 17.

Vesna's has an extensive menu of American favorites as well as some Greek food every day for lunch, and great full

American breakfasts seven days a week, with their own delicious full-size homemade bagels. Dinners are outstanding. For more, see <u>www.vesnataverna.com</u>.

22. Lee's Restaurant Update

Although we made several phone calls to the restaurant and to Lee's own phone last week, we haven't heard back. The latest information we had was that Lee's Roadside Grill was scheduled to shut down on Friday, May 12, related to a dispute with Lee's landlord.

We know Lee is a fighter and very much wants to keep his landmark restaurant open. As soon as we know more, we'll pass it along.

We have no information related to a possible alternative location if Lee is forced to close his current restaurant.

23. Sargasso Seaweed Returns, But It's Dispatched Every Morning

Although the Sargasso Sea is hundreds of miles north of SXM, variations in currents, storms, and climate change all may be playing a role in the spread of *Sargassum* -- the seaweed's official name — throughout much of the northern and central Caribbean and into beaches along the US Gulf of Mexico.

The seaweed had pretty much disappeared in SXM last summer, but very small patches of it began to reappear in March. More significant amounts of Sargassum started coming ashore in mid April.

When this first happened several years ago, the island apparently didn't expect it and didn't quite know how to react. Beach boys gathered the seaweed by rake, put it in wheelbarrows, and carted it away. Subsequently, tractors were brought in to plow it away, but the big tractors endangered the beaches. Now, more sophisticated methods are used to gather the stuff and to dispatch it, and even newer, more environmentally friendly methods are being looked into to keep the beaches clean and usable — and also safe for nesting sea turtles.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

More stories follow.

Get The Current Low Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership and keep the current low price on a future renewal. More benefits... same price.

Email Jeff now: jeff.berger@skymed.com (new email)

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 <u>payable in cash in advance (if you aren't a SkyMed member</u>) to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. **Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it**. Email us today. SkyMed emails only. Visit <u>www.getskymed.com</u>.

24. Vacationing With Kids / Grandkids

If you're thinking about visiting St. Maarten this summer with your children or grandchildren, here are a few things to

occupy them.

First, take them to a calm beach. Some of the best are Friars Bay Beach, though it may have something of a dropoff; and Embouchure Bay, also known as LeGalion beach. That is probably the most perfect beach for kids, since it's in a secluded bay and the water is generally very calm. It's also a gorgeous beach and it has the Tropical Wave restaurant, about which we've written many times. Tropical Wave has tasty local food and is one of the least expensive places on the island.

Second, take them to the Butterfly Farm, where they can enjoy hundreds of butterflies through all stages of their lives. Where brightly colored clothing and butterflies may relax on your shoulder for a while. The Butterfly Farm is also extremely inexpensive not to mention fascinating; by all means take your camera. It's on the road to Le Galion Beach.

Third, visit the carousel in Simpson Bay, the only carousel on the island. The carousel is also a giant ice cream restaurant, with many flavors of homemade Italian gelato and a countless array of toppings. The kids will love it.

Fourth, pick up some Etna Ice Cream in any supermarket; it is high in butterfat which means it is super rich, and it's also super flavorful and all-natural. Never visit this island without experiencing Etna Ice Cream.

Fifth, take the kids to an early dinner (6 pm) at iZi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay or Mr. Busby's / Daniel's on Dawn Beach (pizza and burgers for the kids, great food for adults there). Crave Mexican? Check out La Patrona at Simpson Bay Resort. The food is great at all three places, the staffs love kids, and the restaurants are quiet when you come in early. Pineapple Pete is also nearby and it serves excellent food.

25. Want to Be a Finalist in Our Next Big Vacation Giveaway? Here's How

Our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook site</u> is currently approaching its 10 thousandth member. When it reaches 10,000, we're going to select someone at random to be a finalist in our next major SXM vacation giveaway, expected next spring. Go to the page... join it... and you may be selected after we reach 10,000 members. Good luck!

26. Two Ways to Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period to Cover Pre-Existing

Conditions

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 (about \$1.30/day for family annual memberships and \$15.00/day for family short-term).

Annuals and multiyear memberships are 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).

Questions? Email Jeff and ask away. Include your phone number and time zone, or call him directly at (508)-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only).

27. 10-Year Price Guarantee on New or Upgraded SkyMed 5-Yr Ultimate

Memberships:

Buy or upgrade to a new five-year SkyMed Ultimate now and choose to renew automatically, and both transactions will be at the current low prepaid five-year price of \$2495 which is just \$499/year, the same as SkyMed's Annual

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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 by using this Ultimate upgrade with automatic renewals.

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 (could be anytime), and opt for automatic renewals to be guaranteed the current price (\$499/year when prepaid at inception for the five-year term, \$2495).

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

28. Restaurant of the Week:

This feature resumes next week.

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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> -- 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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 <u>www.avantikasxm.com</u> (featured 2/6/17; added 2/17) Canoa, <u>www.canoasxm.com</u> (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, <u>www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (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, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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, <u>www.thestonerestaurant.com</u> (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, <u>www.pineapplepete.com</u> (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)

29. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #22

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:

Dawn Beach Hotel Restaurant: The Dawn Beach Hotel was a beautiful old roundish structure on dawn beach near the current site of the Westin. Patrons of the seaside restaurant walked upstairs to the main dining room and often had sugarbirds visit their table. Whether the food was great or the atmosphere was so fantastic that no one noticed the food, we don't recall -- but it was a favorite spot for many years despite the tortuous drive to get there, over what at the time was a seriously rutted dirt road. We usually had breakfast there but as far as we know it served all day... but 1995's hurricane Luis ended that all when it totally destroyed the building. There's another story about what happened to their insurance and why they didn't rebuild but we'll leave that alone.... The only picture we could find is here.

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?)
- 22 Dawn Beach Hotel Restaurant (D)

Coming soon: 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.

30. 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 <u>once your short-term membership ends</u>, it's over, and you must medically requalify to get <u>coverage for any subsequent trip</u>. 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 <u>SkyMed never cancels</u> anyone because of advancing age or declining health.

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

More stories follow.

31. 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. We know we repeat this... we do it for very good reason.

SkyMed Takes You Home® -- what else matters?

32. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation

Updated 5/8/17

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, no reimbursements, and no deductibles for SkyMed services, ever. SkyMed arranges everything and pays for all the services it provides.

Anything can happen — but you can trust SkyMed to <u>take you home</u> 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.

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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* — <u>but if you're a nonmember and care to join SkyMed now through us</u>, we'll enroll you in JMB Website Supporters at the same time (five-year SkyMed memberships only). This offer is available only by phone; email <u>jeff.berger@skymed.com</u> 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). Americans, Canadians, and ExPats only.

See <u>www.getskymed.com</u> or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.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. 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, <u>your membership cannot be</u> <u>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 <u>here</u>.

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 -- and now a SkyMed Ambassador -- for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at <u>Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com</u>. He generally returns messages within 24 hours. To see <u>online frequently asked questions</u>, <u>go here</u>. You can also see his SkyMed site at <u>www.GetSkyMed.com</u>.

<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):

<u>Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.</u>

33. 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>.

34. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml</u>. Most issues for the past few years are now online.

More stories are below.

Traveling Anywhere?

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

35. "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 later 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://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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml</u> 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>. 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 <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>; 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*.

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

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

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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

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

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

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

5/8/17 #1096 5/8/17 600A EDT 8.5

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