Can't see this newsletter? Go here.

#1099 --- Monday, 5/29/2017 News From St. Maarten / St. Martin

24 / 7 / 365 Thank You to all American service men and women-- Memorial Day, 2017



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

**Everything SXM Home Page** 

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Webite Login

# **Member News**

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

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2017. See <u>Legal</u> 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 <u>send-only</u> email address. For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u> at the end of this newsletter.

### **Important Note:**

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 290,000 people around the world...

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



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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml
On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

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

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

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

### TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

# In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

- -- Hoax Airport Bomb Threat Disrupts Operations Saturday Afternoon
- -- Tropical Wave Crosses SXM Bringing Heavy Rain, Street Flooding
- -- NOAA/NHC Ups Its 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Forecast
- -- None Hurt: Fire Destroys Two Homes; Homeless Need Help
- -- Massive 776-Room Chinese Condo Development May Dominate Mullet Bay
- -- New Small Hotel Coming to the French Side
- -- \*\*\*Final Week\*\*\* Black Friday & 1/2 / Jeff's Birthday Membership Sale: About 300 St.

Maarten / St. Martin Discounts & Benefits Through JMB Membership -- Now at Unusually Low Price Points

- -- Alegria Owner Ray Sidhom Takes Marty To Court Again
- -- JMB Members-only Discounts at Gorgeous Villa Onyi
- -- Will Laptop Carry-Ons be Banned on all International Flights?
- -- Marco Ferrante Debuts at Isola Restaurant in Simpson Bay
- -- SXM Personal Trainer Desiree Winkel Climbs Mt. Everest
- -- Two Ways to Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period to Cover Pre-Existing Conditions
- -- 10-Year Price Guarantee on New or Upgraded SkyMed Five-Year Ultimate Memberships
- -- Restaurant of the Week:
- -- A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants
- -- Should You Buy a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages
- -- Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation

40 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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml</a> and features them here.

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

## SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

**RENTAL** 1/20/2018 1/27/2018 week 3 Simpson Bay Resort and Villas This is a sleep 4 studio in the Villas that has two (2) double beds, kitchenette, small balcony directly on Simpson Bay overlooking Villas pool and harbor. Casino and restaurants on property. Many more within walking distance. Flat screen TV and internet access. Renter responsible for timeshare tax. Contact via email please \$1,000 Eileen (631) 484-0811 <a href="mailto:eephilbin1@aol.com">eephilbin1@aol.com</a>

### SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

**SALE** 2/17/2018 2/24/2018 7 The Towers at Mullet Bay A beautiful 4 star Crown resort located between Maho and Cupecoy. Fifth floor, 1 bedroom suite, sleeps 4. Fully equipped kitchen, living and dining areas, balcony with 2 chaises and breakfast table (2 chairs) overlooking the Caribbean Sea., Mullet Bay beach and the golf course. Immaculate unit, grounds, pool and pool bar. Very short walk to Mullet Bay beach and the only golf course on the island. \$6,000 Bev 203-966-2670 <a href="mailto:bev2ab@yahoo.com">bev2ab@yahoo.com</a>

## Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

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

### 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://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

## Section One: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather Go To This Section

- 1. Hoax Airport Bomb Threat Disrupts Operations Saturday Afternoon
- 2. NOAA/NHC Ups Its 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Forecast
- 3. Tropical Wave Crosses SXM Bringing Heavy Rain, Street Flooding
- 4. Spirit CEO Apologizes for Cancellations, Says They'll Do Better
- 5. Many Pilots Retiring; Not Good News, For Many Reasons
- 6. Airfares Are High, But...
- 7. "Today's SXM Weather" a Regular Feature On Our Everything SXM Facebook Site
- 8. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)
- 9. 110% Guarantee on Hotel & Car Rental Rates Through SkyMed Travel Club

Will Laptop Carry-Ons be Banned on all International Flights? See Story #22

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

- 10. New Small Hotel Coming to the French Side
- 11. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Timeshare Owner Orientations...

Massive 776-Room Chinese Condo Development May Dominate Mullet Bay; See Story #20 See Timeshare Rental Scam Warning, Story #30

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

- 12. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates
- 13. May Member Benefits Update: Shopping
- 14. JMB Members-only Discounts at Gorgeous Villa Onyi
- 15. Get "Everything St. Maarten" Bracelets for JMB Members Only at DK Gems; Buy Some for Friends
- 16. Huge Members-Only Discounts on SkyMed

### Section Four: Island Go To This Section

17. \*\*\*Final Week\*\*\* <u>Black Friday & 1/2 / Jeff's Birthday Membership Sale</u>: About 300 St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts & Benefits Through JMB Membership -- Now at Low Sale Prices

**But The Sale Ends Sunday** 

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

- 19. No One Hurt as Fire Destroys Two Homes -- but The Homeless Need Your Help
- 20. Massive 776-Room Chinese Condo Development May Dominate Mullet Bay
- 21. Alegria Owner Ray Sidhom Takes Marty To Court Again
- 22. Will Laptop Carry-Ons be Banned on all International Flights?
- 23. Marco Ferrante Debuts at Isola Restaurant in Simpson Bay
- 24. SXM Personal Trainer Desiree Winkel Climbs Mt. Everest
- 25. Enter Our Sum-Sum-Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway
- 26. Warning About High Cellular Roaming Rates

- 27. Fathers Day, Graduation Gifts: Watch Your Email
- 28. A Closer Look at Best Reasons for Taking SXM Summer Vacations: Part 3
- 29. Access Highly Useful Info on Our Everything SXM Facebook Site
- 30. Scam Warning When You Advertise Timeshare Weeks for Rent/Sale
- 31. Using Global Entry? You May Have to Take Out Your Laptop Regardless
- 32. Two Ways to Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period to Cover Pre-Existing Conditions
- 33. 10-Year Price Guarantee on New or Upgraded SkyMed Five-Year Ultimate Memberships
- 34. Restaurant of the Week:
- 35. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants
- 36. Should You Buy a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages
- 37. 30-Day Free Look, No Age Limit When You Join SkyMed
- 38. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
- 39. Download List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
- 40. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

### 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 <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a>.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

Not a member yet? See <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</a>. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

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

# All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\*

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

# THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

# 1. Hoax Airport Bomb Threat Disrupts Operations Sat. Afternoon

A bomb threat phoned in to SXM Airport last Saturday disrupted heavy Saturday air traffic into and out of the airport for hours. In the end, nothing was found, no one was injured, and traffic resumed.

SXM police have a well-defined protocol for investigating and following up on such phone calls, which they always take very seriously. They are investigating this incident and are determined to find, prosecute, and punish whoever is responsible. No one was injured and there was no requirement for the use of any escape slides from the aircraft.

The focus of the threat was a JetBlue flight from Boston which had arrived in SXM some four hours late. Boston's Logan International Airport is experiencing heavy delays now and through this summer because of reconstruction of one of its two main runways, but the JetBlue delay in arriving in SXM was apparently aggravated by some other issues

When the plane arrived in SXM, police swarmed the airport and were on the tarmac. Nearby roads were shut down. The plane was kept far from the main terminal. All air traffic into or out of SXM was halted or diverted elsewhere.

Ultimately, officials were satisfied that there was no problem and passengers deplaned using a portable staircase. The aircraft, JetBlue N579JB, a 150 passenger Airbus A320, later taxied off the runway to a position a couple of hundred yards away from the terminal where it remained for a couple of hours — we would guess passengers waiting for the return flight to Boston had to wait longer for a replacement crew. The same plane took off for Boston more than six hours behind its normal schedule.

# 2. NOAA/NHC Ups Its 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Forecast

In recent weeks, we reported that meteorologist Rob Lightbown of <u>Crown Weather</u> had upped his forecast for hurricanes during the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season which, he has said, could be more active than previously expected. Now, the National Hurricane Center/NOAA is saying pretty much the same thing, thanks to warm ocean temperatures and a lower likelihood hurricane-deterring El Niño conditions.

Here are details on their comments.

Bottom line, an above average year for hurricanes and tropical storms is now expected. See stories 7 and 8 in this section for more.

# 3. Tropical Wave Crosses SXM With Heavy Rain, Street Flooding

A tropical wave passed over the island Sunday night and early Monday, dropping more than four inches of rain on the island and causing widespread street flooding.

For a time, the government told residents to stay off the roads until the situation improved, which was expected to happen on Monday afternoon. Federal Express would remain closed all day because of the US Memorial Day holiday.

## 4. Spirit CEO Apologizes for Cancellations, Says They'll Do Better

Hearing about the near-riot that occurred recently in Fort Lauderdale after Spirit Airlines canceled a number of flights, the CEO of that airline belatedly issued a statement vowing to improve. It should not be particularly difficult for Spirit Airlines to improve, since many aviation industry critics have said it is the worst of all US carriers. Here are <a href="histon">histon</a> comments.

Spirit does fly to SXM but we rarely talk about them because Spirit's service is a complete abomination, according to its own passengers.

## 5. Many Pilots Retiring; Not Good News, For Many Reasons

The retirement of current airline pilots is accelerating, leading to what many airline industry observers fear will be a pilot shortage and all of its consequences.

A principal initial effect of this shortage as time goes on is likely to be increased flight cancellations. Fewer pilots

means tougher crew scheduling. Late flights carrying crewmembers for other flights, or shortages due to illness or other reasons could result in a number of cancellations. Worse, some veteran pilots are saying that the average experience level of captains may decrease. With surgeons and with airline pilots, it's always best to be cared for by someone with more than ample experience. How the airlines will handle this is not known, but they are working to increase the pool of individuals being trained to become future pilots.

## 6. Airfares Are High, But...

We keep an eye on airfares as do millions of other travelers, and all of us are seeing higher than usual fares as we reported a few weeks ago.

If you are preparing to make reservations to St. Maarten, bear in mind that fares tend to be much cheaper if you fly midweek rather than on Saturday.

Especially at this time of year, you may well save if you fly down and back in the middle of the week — adding extra days to your vacation in the process. That may significantly cut your airfare and, because of low low-season accommodations and car rental rates on the island, your bottom line cost may not be all that much different despite your longer stay. Give it a try: midweek fares do tend to be lower.

# 7. "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>.

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

Here they are:

- a) Crown Weather Services whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- b) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops.
- c) Our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>, which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- d) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see <a href="https://www.island92.com">www.island92.com</a>. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

See significant National Hurricane Center Outlooks and Advisories as they relate both to SXM and to the US East and Gulf coasts on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site.

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

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

# 9. 110% Guarantee Now On SkyMed Travel Club Hotel, Car Rental Rates (Updated 2/18/17)

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

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

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and SXM Weekly News readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages

worldwide

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their new 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is a big deal.

Normally, this organization charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for everyone else, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <a href="https://www.skymedtravel.com/register">https://www.skymedtravel.com/register</a>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.

You will not be disappointed.

# Traveling Anywhere?

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a> today; email Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at <a href="jeff.berger@skymed.com">jeff.berger@skymed.com</a> 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. Contact us today.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

# 10. New Small Hotel Coming to the French Side

We'll be telling you all the details in the next week or two, but the news is this...A new small boutique hotel is opening very soon on a hillside in oyster pond. Built from a villa with magnificent ocean views, this new property features rooms with great views and property-wide amenities. Renovations are underway now and will be finished in about a month. There are magnificent ocean views, many fine restaurants nearby, and beautiful dawn beach is just minutes away. The cost of the rooms is very reasonable, and will be even more reasonable, we're sure, for JMB Website Supporters members.

Stay tuned for the details right here, soon.

# **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: <a href="https://www.sxmweeklynews.com">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>

# 11. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Owner Orientations

Simpson Bay timeshare owners should sit in on the Monday 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 Discounts & Benefits**

## 12. "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.

### 13. 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, <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a>, provides an interesting overview of shopping opportunities across the island.

Our secret website, <a href="www.everythingsxm.com/secret">www.everythingsxm.com/secret</a>, 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, <a href="mailto:Shopping">Shopping</a> 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.

# 14. Huge JMB Members-only Discounts at Gorgeous Villa Onyi

In a special mailing to all JMB Website Supporters members more than a month ago, they were notified in detail of the special low JMB members-only rates now available for stays at Villa Onyi in Point Blanche through April, 2018.

If you are a JMB Website Supporters member and didn't receive the mailing, go <u>here</u> to get a copy of the rates PDF. Your username and password are not required for this download. <u>Again, prices apply to JMB Website Supporters</u>

members exclusively and are not available to the general public. If you're still not a member, see the story at the beginning of the next section and join now. <u>Our Black Friday and 1/2 - Jeff's Birthday Sale ends very soon.</u>

Villa Onyi is the hilltop villa in Point Blanche with stunning views of the Caribbean and of St. Barths, St. Kitts, and Nevis in the distance, affording residents and guests unmatched serenity and spectacular views of the Heineken Regatta and other Regattas both in St. Maarten and in St. Barths. It is an ultra-luxurious two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa with its own private pool and full gourmet kitchen. It's quite gorgeous inside and out and loaded with amenities.

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

# 15. "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 <a href="Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site">Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</a>. Multiple finishes -- gold, silver, etc. - are offered. Current, valid JMB membership card required as is a government-issued photo ID. <a href="Contact Jeff at DK Gems">Contact Jeff at DK Gems</a>, Phone and online orders can be accepted if you send current, 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.

See info about JMB membership in the beginning of this section.

# 16. Huge Members-Only Discounts on SkyMed

JMB offers our readers, JMB Website Supporters members, and everyone else short-term, annual, and multiyear memberships in SkyMed, the company that takes its members home when they become critically ill or injured while traveling — something that happens far more often than most people think.

JMB member discounts apply to all SkyMed multiyear memberships. The five year SkyMed Ultimate membership, for example, which offers the most features and benefits of any SkyMed membership plus global coverage through a SkyMed-owned affiliate called GETS, is available for \$499 per year guaranteed for 10 years. You pay the full cost of the five-year membership at inception and are guaranteed 10 years at the same price when you agree to automatic renewals when signing up. At a time when oil prices may become unpredictable, such a guarantee involving emergency med flight operations is extraordinary — yet you pay only \$2499 total for five full years of family membership at inception. The following will be of great interest:

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here: <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf">http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf</a> And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here: <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf">http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf</a>

For more information, see <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a> or contact Jeff directly at <a href="jeff.berger@SkyMed.com">jeff.berger@SkyMed.com</a>. Please include your phone number and time zone.

**SECTION 4:** Island

17. \*\*\*Final Week\*\*\*:

Our Black Friday & 1/2 (& Jeff's Birthday)

JMB Membership Sale

Gives You

About 300

St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts & Benefits

Through JMB Membership:

Low Sale Prices

# ENDS THIS SUNDAY JUNE 4

New JMB memberships: One year, \$39; Three years, just \$89 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: One year, \$34; Five years, \$109. www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the Membership Renewal Center

JMB Membership Reinstatements: One year, \$34; Five years, \$109.

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

<u>18.</u>

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 www.island92.com)
Now Every Monday

# Somewhere Between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. Island Time; (EDT is the same time)

# 19. No Injuries: Fire Destroys Two Homes -- Homeless Need Help

Two homes and a taxi were totally destroyed this past weekend by a major fire in the Cay Bay area, not far from the GEBE electric plant.

Miraculously, no one was hurt and St. Maarten "Brandweer" fire department firefighters were able to save neighboring homes in this densely populated area.

Unfortunately, the people who are homeless have lost virtually everything. SXM Weekly News readers can help by mailing a check to Rotary Club of St. Maarten, attention Jeffrey Sochrin, care of The Mailbox #5967, PO Box 523882, Miami, FL 33152-3882. Donations of any amount will be appreciated. If you live on the island, listen to Island92 (91.9 FM) to see what physical items are most urgently needed.

# 20. 776-Room Chinese Condo Dev't May Dominate Mullet Bay

With every day that passes, the massive 776 room Pearl of China condo/hotel development seems to be turning from what its promoters claim will be something wonderful into a poisonous, ravenous Lionfish in an aquarium.

The latest wrinkle became obvious recently when, as we reported, the building as planned was higher than allowed in the terms of the purchase and sale agreement. Government officials said perhaps that could be ironed out in negotiations, but then they threw a huge monkey wrench into the process when one suggested that the project be moved to Mullet Bay beach.

Although some people who live or vacation near Bel Air beach, the northern end of which was (or is) the original site, love the idea because it would rid them of this monolithic behemoth, the vast majority of island residents seem to have reacted with a collective gasp of horror also widely shared among tourists.

Although the project — negotiated in secret and announced only after it was virtually a done deal — "promises" to be a big boon to St. Maarten tourism, the reality is that it consists of about 325 hotel rooms with 450 condos for Chinese businessmen. Beyond that, the hotel rooms are expected to be occupied primarily by people involved in selling Chinese goods and services to prospects throughout this hemisphere and to a small number who come to see Chinese wares displayed in a relatively small "showroom" in the building.

Far from being the centerpiece of tourism redevelopment at Mullet Bay Beach Resort, Pearl of China, in our opinion, will forever sink Mullet Bay as anything other than the centerpiece of a commercial Chinese beachhead in the Northeast Caribbean. In our opinion, chances are also rather high that it will screw up beach access for locals and tourists alike (though the government would claim otherwise), exacerbate traffic woes in the area, and adversely affect the already mediocre condition of the golf course, which could also be a centerpiece of tourism development if the government set that as a clear objective.

To be sure, this relocation to Mullet Bay was offered as a suggestion, not a done deal. It certainly does have many who object. Our opinion is that it is not by any means in the best interests of St. Maarten no matter where they think they should put it. The structure itself is about as attractive and imaginative as your average cinder block.

# 21. Alegria Owner Ray Sidhom Takes Marty To Court

# **Again**

It occurs to us that Alegria owner Ray Sidhom is less popular in St. Maarten than United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz is among United Airlines stockholders. It seems that everything Sidhom touches in St. Maarten turns to something decidedly less desirable than gold.

We won't bore you with his litany of non-accomplishments on the island since he attempted to take over Caravanserai Resort by throwing out timeshare owners without compensation except to say that he seems to have developed some kind of intense dislike for Marty, one of the most likable business owners on the island who has long rented and properly managed a beautiful bar in the middle of his "Alegria" Resort.

For the fourth time, Sidhom is taking Marty to court in an apparent attempt, yet again, to throw Marty out of the resort. On each of the previous occasions, the court threw out Mr. Sidhom instead, to the delight of everyone except Mr. Sidhom.

Unless it is delayed, the latest court action takes place in a few days. As always, we'll keep you posted.

# 22. Will Laptop Carry-Ons be Banned on all International Flights?

The US Department of Homeland Security and the TSA are seriously considering banning laptops from the cabins of all international flights bound for the US.

Under the proposal as currently expressed, laptops would be put into checked baggage instead of carried on board. There are three huge problems with this proposal, each of which is equal to the other in importance.

First, baggage is not handled gently and laptops are delicate electronic instruments that could easily be damaged by improper handling or turbulence.

Second, theft. Today, no sensible traveler would put valuable electronics in checked baggage where there is a history of valuables being stolen.

Third and perhaps even more scary, some lithium ion batteries used in laptops have had a history of overheating and bursting into flames. If such batteries are in the passenger compartment, response to such a situation can be almost instantaneous and usually effective. But if this kind of problem occurs in the luggage compartment, that's a whole different scary story.

There is no indication yet whether the Caribbean would be exempted from this kind of program, should it come to reality. If you usually visit St. Maarten with your laptop, be prepared. If a ruling is made incorporating such a decision, we'll publish information on safeguarding your data and your property.

More is here.

# 23. Marco Ferrante Debuts at Isola Restaurant in Simpson Bay

After serving as restaurant manager at David Foini's wildly popular IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay ever since it opened, and as head chef at David's renowned La Gondola restaurant before that, Marco Ferrante last December decided it was time to take total command at another restaurant — and after a few weeks off, he has done exactly that.

Early this year, he was named General Manager at Isola Restaurant which is located on the grounds at Simpson Bay Resort next to Hollywood Casino.

He told us earlier that he wanted a few months to make sure he had a staff that was properly oriented toward topquality customer service; a kitchen staff that had the expertise the job required plus the correct knowledge, experience, and attitude; and a menu that kept faith with favorites of restaurant visitors while being totally responsive to what the market wants in a top-quality Italian restaurant. "I am now ready to tell the world to come to Isola," Marco messaged us this past weekend. He has hired many of the staff members himself; he has hired and trained his head chef himself, who is a seasoned chef from Rome; and he created Isola's new menu himself from top to bottom.

We'll be visiting Isola when we return to the island and you might want to give it a try as well, and see what Marco has been up to.

JMB members: we will soon give away a dinner for two to JMB Website Supporters members who will be visiting the island this summer. Watch your email for how you can win this dinner for two at Isola. In addition, Isola and a number of other tourist-oriented SXM businesses will soon be providing new discounts and other benefits to our JMB Website Supporters members. Stay tuned.

Also see our Restaurant of the Week feature, below.

# 24. SXM Personal Trainer Desiree Winkel Climbs Mt. Everest

Most of us know people who like hiking — and some of us hike. A few of us know people who have climbed mountains; a friend of ours has climbed Denali, formerly named Mount McKinley, the tallest peak in North America.

But few of us know anyone who has dared to climb Mount Everest, the tallest mountain on the planet. Thousands have attempted to climb it but few have actually succeeded.

Now, Desiree Winkel, a fitness instructor from St. Maarten, has recently sent back reports through her Facebook site of her adventure — climbing Mount Everest. It's a huge human accomplishment, one she and everyone who knows her should be very proud of. You can see some pictures of her adventure on <a href="her Facebook site">her Facebook site</a>,

# 25. Enter Our Sum-Sum-Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway

Our Sum-Sum Summertime SXM vacation giveaway has begun! You can now enter! SXM Weekly News readers (NOT pass-along readers) can enter up to 10 times per subscribed email address. The drawing will be late in October. We expect to be giving away about three SXM vacations -- watch for details in future editions of SXM Weekly News.

Our vacation prizes are:

- -- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful **Oyster Bay Beach Resort**.
- -- a 5 night stay (based upon availability April 10-Dec 18, 2018) in an ocean front room at the **Westin St Maarten Dawn Beach Resort, Spa, and Casino**.
- -- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at La Vista Resort, May through December 2018.
- -- Grand Prize winner also gets Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano at Simpson Bay Resort.

Enter here: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/getting here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

# 26. Warning About High Cellular Roaming Rates

If you plan to use your US or Canadian cell phone in St. Maarten, check first to see what your roaming charges will be. In some cases, they can be \$5-\$6/minute with some carriers.

Verizon has a program which charges \$10/day for your stay which would cover all long-distance calls; check with

them for details. \$10/day may be good for people who aren't staying on the island long, but if your stay is extended, we recommend you rent a phone with a local number. **Sharon's Cell Phone Rentals** at Royal Palm has always been our top recommendation. Their service is excellent; the phones are reliable; and the cost is small. Find out more here: <a href="https://gueenofsxm.com/">https://gueenofsxm.com/</a>

# 27. Fathers Day & Graduation Gifts: Watch Your Email

We've contacted our partners at several jewelry stores in St. Maarten and asked them to give our JMB Website Supporters members offers that are particularly attractive for both Father's Day and for graduations. We expect to have their answers very shortly; as soon as we receive them, will send an email to all JMB members with the offers. Members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program always receive the best offers; decent offers are also made to readers of SXM Weekly News, although their offers are not nearly as attractive as those given to JMB members. See the beginning of this section to join JMB Website Supporters

# 28. A Closer Look at Best Reasons for Taking SXM Summer Vacations: Part 3

We recently listed these reasons for taking a Summer vacation in SXM:

- 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.

So far, we've explored #1, #2, #5, and #10. This week, it's #3 and #4:

Particularly if you visit mullet Bay beach, Cupecoy beach, or Orient beach, finding enough room for yourself during the dead of winter in SXM can be a challenge. However, as we point out in #3, no such problem exists during summer on SXM. The island has relatively few North American visitors during the summer, though in fact July may be the most beautiful month of the year on SXM. Weather is generally dry, hurricane season doesn't really get going until mid-August in most years, virtually all restaurants are open, and traffic is easy. If you spend much time submitting to sand gravity, you will find a lot of space to choose from on just about every SXM beach.

Number 4 bears essentially the same news, but applies it to restaurants. Although we still recommend reservations at your favorite restaurants, the nice thing is you'll generally find them easy to get; most places will be not nearly as busy as they are in midwinter. Nonetheless, we do suggest that you make the reservations at the best restaurants a few days in advance, to be absolutely sure you get what you're hoping for. Enjoy yourself — there's no rush since few people will be waiting, unlike high season.

We'll talk more about summer vacations in SXM next week; in the meantime, enter our new giveaway now. Enter here.

## 29. Access Highly Useful Info on Our Everything SXM Facebook Site

Regardless of what St. Maarten/St. Martin information you're looking for, you will find easily accessible details about "everything St. Maarten/St. Martin/SXM" on our <a href="EverythingStMaarten.com">EverythingStMaarten.com</a> website; in our <a href="Everything St. Maarten">Everything St. Maarten</a> Facebook <a href="Site">Site</a>; and in reference files which are multiplying rapidly under the "Files" heading below the masthead on our <a href="Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site">Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</a>. Just click <a href="Files">Files</a> on that page to see what we mean.

More stories are below.

# Get The Current Low Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership and keep the current low price on a future 5-yr. 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 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 <a href="https://www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a>.

# 30. \*\*Repeat\*\* *Scam Warning* When You Advertise Timeshare Weeks for Rent/Sale

For many years, the top of our page featuring St. Maarten timeshare weeks for sale or for rent has contained warnings about scammers.

We recently heard that the scammers are at it again, using one of their classic techniques. They offer to send you a check for more than the amount of the rental *if you are willing to immediately send them a check or wire them money for their overpayment*. Never do that. Their checks are invariably bogus, and by the time your bank discovers that and charges back your account, you are out thousands of dollars.Read our warnings carefully to be sure you are not victimized, regardless of where you're advertising. Again read our warnings very carefully. Our page is <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent\_sale/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent\_sale/index.shtml</a>

# 31. Using Global Entry? You May Have to Take Out Your Laptop

As we've mentioned before here in *SXM Weekly News*, using Global Entry from US Customs and Border Patrol can be a great help to expediting boarding inside the US and to expediting return processing when you come back to the US.

Be aware, however, that many security stations in the US are requiring even members of Global Entry and Precheck to take the laptops out of their containing cases when going through security. The TSA is quite concerned about the possibility of concealed bombs inside laptops, and this is one in a series of ever-tightening steps it's taking to prevent any issues, and it may apply even to Precheck and Global Entry members.

# 32. 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).

# 33. 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 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. This may expire at any time, so do it soon.

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

## 34. Restaurant of the Week:

**Isola Ristorante Italiano**, where Marco Ferrante took over as GM early this year, for the first time now receives Restaurant of the Week honors here in *SXM Weekly News*; see story 23 for more on this restaurant.

We had heard good reports before about Isola, but we knew when Marco joined the restaurant early this year as its general manager that he wasn't satisfied with it. His first step was to make sure that he had a staff that provided exemplary service, attitude, etc. Consequently, there have been many changes in staff since the beginning of the year.

He also wanted to be sure that the kitchen staff consisted of seasoned, responsive, high-performing Italian chefs. Marco has now accomplished that as well.

His final objective was to put in place a creative Italian menu which kept old favorites of Isola customers while delivering creative and delicious Italian dishes to a discriminating clientele. Although we have not yet visited Isola, we

have been consumers of Marco Ferrante's culinary execution for more than 15 years and we know what he can do. Moreover, close friends whose opinions we value have been to the restaurant on multiple occasions since Marco took over, and their reports are quite glowing. So, we have no hesitation in giving Isola our high recommendation. We'll be reviewing it again once we visit after returning to the island. We had visited the restaurant several years ago to watch a football game, but that wasn't a fair examination of its capabilities and it was pre-Marco. Do visit and let us know what you think — and tell Marco we suggested it.

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 on www.everythingsxm.com -- check it now, before you go.

Sill not a JMB member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a>.

Big Fish Restaurant <a href="https://www.bigfishsxm.com/">www.bigfishsxm.com/</a> (featured 5/1/17)

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/6/17)

Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 12/5/16)

Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/29/17)

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (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, <a href="http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/">http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/</a> (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 5/21/17)

The Boathouse, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777">https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777</a> 10/3/16

The Hideaway, <a href="http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html">http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html</a> (featured 10/31/16)

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

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17)

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

Temptation, <a href="http://www.temptation-sxm.com/">http://www.temptation-sxm.com/</a> (featured 10/10/16)

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 5/9/16)

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <a href="http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com">http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com</a> (featured 5/14/17)

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

Pineapple Pete, <a href="https://www.pineapplepete.com">www.pineapplepete.com</a> (featured 9/19/16)

Papagayo, <a href="http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php">http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php</a> (featured 10/17/16)

**Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar** (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017)

FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, <a href="https://www.jimboscafe.com">www.jimboscafe.com</a> (featured 4/13/15)

Vesna Taverna, <a href="https://www.vesnataverna.com">www.vesnataverna.com</a> (featured 1/9/17)

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

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

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

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

# 35. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #24

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.

**Callaloo:** The restaurant early eighties which was favourite was called the Callaloo in Frontstreet in an alley just before the postoffice. Very popular, like Sams place, by the boating people, run by Bobby ?, who later had Juliana

Cafe at the airport. At that time Philipsburg was the centre of all activities. Simpson Bay had not yet been developed, nor had the harbours on that side. Most of the yachts were anchored in Great Bay and only in hurricane season the boats were in Simpson Bay lagoon. (I was at the time setting up Budget Marine in Philipsburg with my ex-husband Robbie Ferron). -- *Kind regards, Helene Eijkelenboom* 

Readers: We're looking for your suggestions about other restaurants; let us know your past-era SXM favorites so we can feature your complete reviews. Email your suggestions with detailed information please to susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Look Back." Please be sure to include as many details as you can; you may well be the source of a future column. Do check below first -- we've already featured two dozen former SXM restaurants.

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)
- 23 Paradise Cafe (Contributed by Laurence Aiello) (D)
- 24 Callaloo (D)

Coming soon: Zachary's (D)

# 36. 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 <u>over</u>, and <u>you must medically requalify to get 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 SkyMed never cancels 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.

# 37. 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?

# 38. 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 take you home when you need it most.

**What's It Cost?** *Without* SkyMed, you'll need \$45,000 or more <u>payable in cash in advance</u> to pay for an emergency medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you, for a small membership fee; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going.

Why Buy Now? We're offering SkyMed now at very special pricing for JMB Website Supporters members only—but if you're a nonmember and care to join SkyMed now through us, we'll enroll you in JMB Website Supporters at the same time (five-year SkyMed memberships only). This offer is available only by phone; email <a href="mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com">jeff.berger@skymed.com</a> and give Jeff your phone number so he can call you. He'll be happy to answer your questions, tell you about the different types of programs available, and their respective costs. He'll also be happy to fill out your application for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership by phone and at the same time you can set up a JMB Website Supporters membership (required to get the biggest multiyear SKYMED discounts). Americans, Canadians, and ExPats only.

See <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a> or email Jeff at <a href="jeff.berger@skymed.com">jeff.berger@skymed.com</a> (use the subject "SkyMed inquiry") to learn more and get your questions answered.

# Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, **short term memberships** are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- over 30 countries total. Short-term memberships are very inexpensive, about \$9 per day per person, maximum of about \$15 per day. The disadvantage is that they only cover you for the short term you are traveling; when they expire, your protection disappears. When you're ready to travel again, you must reapply for a new short-term membership. Although the process is quick, **you still must be medically approved** and at some point, that

may well be impossible. 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 <a href="here">here</a>.

Fourth, if you're an **American or Canadian ex-pat** living in St. Maarten / St. Martin or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SKYMED protection in the form of an **ex-pat** membership. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and answer your questions.

In addition to everything else, Jeff Berger has been a SkyMed rep -- and now a SkyMed Ambassador -- for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at <a href="mailto:Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com">Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com</a>. He generally returns messages within 24 hours. To see <a href="mailto:online frequently asked questions">online frequently asked questions</a>, go here. You can also see his SkyMed site at <a href="https://www.GetSkyMed.com">www.GetSkyMed.com</a>.

<u>JMB members get serious discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships</u>. If you're not already a JMB member, join today and take advantage of those discounts.

For more on JMB memberships, see below, Join, renew, or reinstate now.

### **New JMB memberships**

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

### **Renewal JMB memberships**

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

### JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

More stories are below.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.

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

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Look: <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf">http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf</a>

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>.

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

Look here for our PDF archives: <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml</a>. Most issues

for the past few years are now online.

# **Traveling Anywhere?**

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a> today; email Jeff <a href="mailto:getskymed.com">getskymed.com</a> with the Subject "SkyMed".

### Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about sxm/paypal.shtml .

### Want to rent or buy a week?

\*2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml</a> Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

## **SECTION 5:** For Members Only

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a>. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com/secret">www.everythingsxm.com/secret</a> .Your username and password are required.

## SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 10/18/15

See www.everythingsxm.com.

### About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: <a href="https://www.sxmweeklynews.com">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>. 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 <a href="www.sxmweeklynews.com">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. <a href="JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. <a href="JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. <a href="JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address for continued Secret Site access.

### 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 <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com">http://www.everythingsxm.com</a>. You cannot join by emailing us.

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

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

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

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

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

Privacy Policy <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\_policy/index.shtml">http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\_policy/index.shtml</a>

5/30/17 #1099 5/29/17 600A EDT 10.0

# Terms of use

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

###