

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

#1102 --- Monday, 6/19/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin
=====Happy Father's Day=====



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

[Member News](#)

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

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

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

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by around 295,000 people around the world...**

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



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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

-- Jet Blue & Southwest Coming Closer to Nonstops from Lauderdale

-- American's Newest 737 Jets: Less Room in Coach

-- Tropical Atlantic Gets Busy

-- Fingerprints May Replace Boarding Passes

-- Much More About US Customs Preclearance at SXM Airport

-- Spirit Airlines: Not Recommended

-- LAST CALL: Membership Sale Must End This Wed. June 21:

Lowest Prices of the Season

-- [Much More on The New Ride Up Sentry Hill](#)

-- [No Life Guards: How To Protect Your Beach Safety](#)

-- [Ditched Your eReader? Here's What To Do](#)

-- [SXM Calendar of Events: How You Can Help](#)

-- [Introducing "Heart of SXM"](#)

-- [SkyMed "Guaranteed Renewable" Memberships - A Huge Feature](#)

-- [Indulge Yourself: A Highlight of Your Next Trip](#)

-- [Two Ways to Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period to Cover Pre-Existing Conditions](#)

-- [Enter Our Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway](#)

-- [Restaurant of the Week](#)

41 news stories this week

[Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents](#)

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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 12/9/2017 12/16/2017 49 Belair beach Resort Week 49. 2 bedroom suite, 2 baths plus sleep sofa in living room, sleep 6. Full kitchen 1st floor walk right out to beach. safe deposit box, complimentary wine and cheese party Monday night. Restaurant and bar on site, Pool, mini mart, Laundromat, 24 hour security, water sports, car rental and activity desk. Beautiful views of Saba, St. Eustacia Islands, and enjoy the lights of the Cruise ships coming and going from your patio \$1,300.00 Patrice 401-559-1044 Pattyc683@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 12/30/2017 1/6/2018 Week 52 La Terasse at The Royal Islander Club Large 3 bedroom/3 bathroom condo that sleeps 12. Fully equipped with stainless steel kitchen appliances, washer/dryer & hot tub on huge terrace overlooking the pool and Maho Bay. Grocery store on ground floor of building, casino, restaurants, shops & clubs within a 2-minute walk. Access to tennis courts and Sonesta Beach Resort facilities. Ten minute walk to famous Mullet Beach, 10 minute drive to Simpson Bay, 3 minute drive from the airport. \$25,000US Howard 514-747-1314 howardwolfe@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

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

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

1. [Jet Blue & Southwest Coming Closer to Nonstops from Lauderdale](#)

2. [Want Jet Blue to Fly to SXM from EWR? How To Tell Them](#)

3. [Tropical Atlantic Gets Busy](#)

4. [American's Newest 737 Jets To Offer Less Room in Coach](#)

5. [Much More About US Customs Preclearance at SXM Airport](#)

6. [Fingerprints May Replace Boarding Passes](#)

7. [Spirit Airlines: Not Recommended](#)

8. [See "Today's SXM Weather" On Our Everything SXM Facebook Site](#)

9. [Four Sources of Current SXM Weather Info](#)

10. [Hotel & Car Rental Rates Worldwide](#)

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

11. [Thanks, JMB Members, For Certifying Your Timeshare Rental Ad Submissions](#)

12. [Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Timeshare Owner Orientations...](#)

13. [Order Extra Vacation Days On Our Site](#)

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](#)

14. ["Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates](#)

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

15. [LAST CALL: Membership Sale Must End This Wed. June 21:](#)

[Lowest Prices of the Season](#)

16. [Updated: How You Can Help Fire Victim Odessa Timmerman](#)

17. [Do Not Disturb Nests of Endangered Sea Turtles](#)

18. [Much More on The New Chairlift Up Sentry Hill](#)

19. [Recommended Cruises on The Water Around SXM](#)

20. [Recommended Car Rentals](#)

21. [Everyone: Please "Clean Up Your Act"](#)

22. [Taking a Land Tour? Where to Get Box Lunches](#)

23. [No Life Guards: How To Protect Your Beach Safety](#)

24. [Taking An Extended Vacation? How NOT To Forget Stuff](#)

25. [Ditched Your eReader? Here's What To Do](#)

26. [SXM Calendar of Events: How You Can Help](#)

27. [Introducing "Heart of SXM"](#)

28. [Indulge Yourself: A Highlight of Your Next Trip](#)

29. [Keep SXM Weekly News Coming: Join JMB Today](#)

30. [10-Year Price Guarantee Now from SkyMed](#)

31. SkyMed "Guaranteed Renewable" Memberships - A Huge Feature

32. Enter Our Sum-Sum-Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway

33. A Closer Look at Best Reasons for Taking SXM Summer Vacations: Part 5

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

35. Restaurant of the Week:

36. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants

37. Should You Buy a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages

38. 30-Day Free Look, No Age Limit When You Join SkyMed

39. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation

40. Download List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits

41. 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 www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Jet Blue, Southwest Closer to Nonstops from Lauderdale

As we've reported, authorities from SXM Airport and the Dutch side are negotiating with JetBlue airlines concerning new nonstop flights to SXM from Fort Lauderdale. That story is [here](#).

JetBlue already flies daily nonstops to SXM from JFK in New York, plus seasonal nonstops two or three days a week from Boston. Fort Lauderdale would be its third US gateway to SXM.

The flights have not yet been finalized, so no date has been announced for the start of service. Our expectation is that it's likely to start early next year.

What's particularly fascinating about this is that Southwest Airlines also is planning SXM nonstops from Fort Lauderdale. Although the two airlines offer economical fares, the similarity ends there. JetBlue offers more amenities, while Southwest offers an extremely casual ambience.

Both are tough competitors and go into markets to win. If both come to St. Maarten from Fort Lauderdale, you can expect that the Miami/Fort Lauderdale market for nonstops to SXM will never be the same. American Airlines, the only key legacy carrier flying to SXM from Miami, is not about to sit back and watch either Southwest or JetBlue eat its lunch. We 100% expect an airfare war to break out in southeast Florida once JB and SW get going, which could mean great fares and more new visitors to St. Maarten from FLL and MIA, and also possible fare drops for passengers connecting there.

If the price of jet fuel spikes, all bets are off.

We'll keep you posted as this moves forward.

2. Want Jet Blue to Fly to SXM from EWR? How To Tell Them

We've felt for some time that nonstop service to SXM from Newark aboard JetBlue is a real possibility. We think it's an underserved market. If you'd like to see it happen, go [here](#) and choose "Where We Fly" on the dropdown menu. Just enter the information they request, then you'll be able to make a request of your own for new routes, or even new cities for JetBlue service. They do take this information very seriously - so spread the word if you want it.

3. Tropical Atlantic Gets Busy

Many of you may recall that the first storm of the season formed a number of weeks ago; her name was Arlene. Now, the potential exists for another named storm to form in the far Eastern Atlantic or off Honduras, or both. If that happens, the first storm to form will be named Bret.

Our friends at [Crown Weather Services](#) currently believe if the far-Eastern Atlantic storm defies climatology and continues developing, it will likely wind up somewhere near Trinidad and Tobago or the northern coast of South America -- far away from SXM. Even that is a long shot at this time of year — but it's possible.

We'll keep watching these possible developing storms and will post updates from the National Hurricane Center on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

4. American's Newest 737 Jets To Offer Less Room in Coach

Until very recently, it had been American Airlines intention to cut the seat pitch (legroom) in a few rows on its new 737 MAX jets down to the level of Spirit Airlines -- atrociously tight.

American customers and crewmembers hearing those plans howled, and ultimately the airline has relented — its seating won't be as bad as Spirit.

That's the good news.

The bad news is that American will still have less room in coach in its new 737 MAX aircraft — not a good thing since its aircraft are already quite uncomfortable in coach. As always, Americans business class and first-class passengers do get much better treatment.

More details are [here](#).

5. Much More About US Customs Preclearance at SXM Airport

As we've reported, US customs preclearance in St. Maarten for US citizens headed home is still regarded as highly likely. Timing is uncertain, since it would require significant construction in the terminal building as well as funding — likely to come directly from the airport. There is also strong opposition to raising the current departure fee, which increases airfares and funds the airport's cost of doing business.

Here's much [more](#). We'll keep you posted.

6. Fingerprints May Replace Boarding Passes

It's not going to happen anytime soon, but boarding passes may wind up being replaced by fingerprint recognition systems at US airports. Here's [much more](#) on the program, which is already being tested at a few US airports.

There are some who object to the program for privacy reasons. Passports, we think, won't go away anytime soon unless there is international agreement on a passport/fingerprint system that is unhackable.

The objective of the program is to speed airport check-in and security clearance.

7. Spirit Airlines: Not Recommended

We are not about to tell you not to fly on any airline. By the same token, however, we feel compelled to tell you that one airline serving St. Maarten has had so many well-publicized snafus that we have to talk about it.

That airline is Spirit. Flying to SXM from Fort Lauderdale, the airline has a reputation for long lines and bad service. Even people who arrive at the airport a couple of hours before flight time have reported missing planes because of long airport check-in lines and slow passenger processing.

The airline also has the distinction of offering less legroom than any other US airline (tied with Frontier, which doesn't serve SXM), making its passenger cabin arguably the least comfortable in the sky.

In a recent article, we wrote about Spirit canceling many Fort Lauderdale flights as a direct result of its own delays, which pushed flight crews beyond their permitted number of flying hours.

Again, we're not saying don't fly Spirit — we're simply saying that Spirit is not recommended by us.

8. See "Today's SXM Weather" On Our Everything SXM Facebook Site

Check our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) each day for daily weather updates. You'll find forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

See next story.

9. Four Sources of Current SXM Weather Info

Here they are:

- a) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- b) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops.
- c) Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when

SXM is threatened by any storms.

d) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

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

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

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

10. Hotel & Car Rental Rates Worldwide...

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

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

1. Call Jeff.

2. Get SkyMed Answers **today**.

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection: it's your "free ticket home" aboard a medical evacuation jet. Visit www.getskymed.com today; phone Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only) or email jeff.berger@skymed.com with the subject "SkyMed". Include your phone number & time zone. If you like, you can even apply by phone.

Guaranteed Renewable*, a Big Deal:

***SkyMed Annual & Multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of changes in your age or health. Plus, SkyMed never raises its rates related to any member's advancing age or declining health. Contact Jeff today.**

Changing Your Email Address?

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One for your SXM Weekly News subscription Quickly and Easily at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

11. Thanks, JMB Members, For Certifying Your Timeshare Rental Ad Submissions

Recently, we told JMB Website Supporters members that we now require them to certify that they have read and will abide by our anti-scam advisories when submitting timeshare rental or sale advertising through our members-only secret website. The objective is to ensure the ability of timeshare owners who are JMB members to sell or rent out their timeshare units and at the same time protect themselves against unscrupulous scammers, about whom we have written both here in *SXM Weekly News* and on the SXM timeshare rental and sale page on our site, everythingSXM.com.

We're delighted that since we added the certification requirement to our JMB ad submission page, 100% of all individuals submitting ads have taken care to certify their submissions, a process which takes less than 15 seconds. If you're not familiar with the scams that are being attempted in the marketplace, please check the warnings published on our timeshare rental/sale page.

12. 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....

13. Order Extra Vacation Days Right On Our Site

In addition to offering timeshare weeks for sale and for rent, the Timeshare page of our EverythingSXM.com website offers direct links to sources of additional days for timeshare renters.

In an increasing number of cases, people wish to fly midweek — or, in fact, any day but Saturday or Sunday, when the airport can be a bit hectic. Before buying fares for midweek travel — which are almost always lower in cost than weekend travel — timeshare owners may also need to obtain a few days at other resorts.

On our Timeshare page on everythingxsm.com, we now have links to rentals at Simpson Bay Resort, which offers a number of beautiful, newly renovated units through much of the year in convenient Simpson Bay. For those who prefer a smaller property, we also provide easy links to Baker's Suites in Simpson Bay which also just finished renovations.

Simpson Bay Resort has restaurants on site and beaches on the property, while Baker's Suites has many restaurants nearby and is within walking distance of attractive beaches.

SECTION 3: Member Discounts & Benefits

14. "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 this section next week when we formally debut several entirely new discounts and benefits.

Please also see stories 15, 19, and 20 for more info on what you get with your JMB membership. These are our JMB Membership Sale prices that must end this Wednesday, Solstice Day, June 21:

New JMB memberships: Three years, just \$89 Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

SECTION 4: Island

15. ***LAST CALL***:

**Our Black Friday & 1/2 (& Jeff's Birthday)
JMB Membership Sale**

MUST END THIS WEDNESDAY JUNE 21

AND CAN NOT BE FURTHER EXTENDED.

*******LAST CALL*******

JMB Offers You About 300 St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts & Benefits:

Our Lowest Prices Of The Season

New JMB memberships: Three years, just \$89 Other durations available.

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

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

16. Updated: How You Can Help Fire Victim Odessa Timmerman

Odessa Timmerman — who has worked as a waitress for the last several years at Jimbo's in Simpson Bay -- lived in one of the homes that was heavily damaged by fire, as we reported two weeks ago here in *SXM Weekly News*.

Since then, workers have been doing their best to fix the ceilings, re-plaster the walls, install new wiring, and much more. Many of them know Odessa and have agreed to do the work with the promise of being paid later, "somehow," Odessa says. She had hoped to set up a PayPal account but for locals on St. Maarten, apparently it's next to impossible to do.

Odessa will appreciate any donation of any size to help her recover. You can send your check payable to Odessa to this US mailing address:

Odessa Timmerman
7701 NW 15th Street -
Suite# SX 696608
Miami, Florida 33106-4800

17. Do Not Disturb Nests of Endangered Sea Turtles

Endangered or critically endangered sea turtles tend to return to the same nesting sites on area beaches. A number of them either already have laid eggs on SXM beaches for the current nesting season or will be doing so very soon. They then bury the eggs and return to the sea.

Some time later, the eggs hatch and baby sea turtles make their way into the ocean. Local authorities in nature

organizations warn everyone to stay far away from nesting sites, many of which are clearly marked out of bounds. Doing anything with these nests is illegal and endangers the baby turtles.

If you see small turtles making their way to the ocean, please leave them alone and let them find their way themselves.

18. Much More on The New Chairlift Up Sentry Hill

If you've made your way from the vicinity of Le Grand Marché or Philipsburg toward Simpson Bay during the last six months, you've noticed the chairlift that goes up Sentry Hill, part of the Emilio Wilson estate, a cherished national nature preserve.

The island government agreed to enable the chairlift and related facilities to be constructed in the face of huge public opposition. The Emilio Wilson estate had stood as a beautiful preservation site for the island's natural countryside for generations. Most island residents wanted it to stay that way.

The government sees it as a way to boost tourism. One issue (there are many) is that current infrastructure barely supports high season congestion as it is, and this attraction could exacerbate that. We know of no concrete plans to fix that.... The even more pressing issue is that this could be, some opponents say, the first of multiple conceivable assaults on the cherished Emilio Wilson Estate.

We'd like to know what you think. Please [read the story here](#) and let us know what you think on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). This link to the story was published there last week.

19. Recommended Cruises on The Water Around SXM

There are literally dozens of companies offering cruises of varying descriptions to tourists. Cruises range from sunset sails in Simpson Bay lagoon to all day sails to neighboring islands, with a spectrum of features offered on each trip.

We will be introducing new cruises within the next week, and we plan to post them here in the JMB Website Supporters benefit section next week in *SXM Weekly News*.

[Our current list of cruise companies offering discounts to JMB Website Supporters members follows.](#) If you haven't yet joined JMB you have only a few days to do so during our Black Friday and a half sale that ends this coming Wednesday, June 21, and will not be further extended. See the links below. Following them, you will find the cruise discount descriptions.

[New JMB memberships: Three years, just \\$89](#) Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

[Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \\$109.](#) Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

[JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \\$109.](#) Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

N. B.: Your current, valid JMB Website Supporters membership card is required for all purchases. No card, no discounts.

Aqua Mania at the Pelican Marina (now Simpson Bay Resort), booking agent for Tango, Lambada, The Edge, and more, offers JMB Website Supporters members 10% off. Book early to avoid disappointment. Go to <http://www.stmaarten-activities.com> and use the special code (hidden). Note: You MUST present your current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card when arriving for your trip or you will NOT be able to use the members-only 10% discount.

Boathouse Boat Rental Discount: Plying the turquoise waters of the lagoon, sailing around the island, or going to close-by islands with Boathouse Boat Rentals is a pleasure. Join one of their packaged excursions, or create your own. Your JMB Website Supporters membership entitles you to 15% off any Boathouse Boat Rental excursion on any full day rental/outing that comes to them directly, meaning not through an activities desk. Just call 1-721-556-1560 make your reservation, and use the discount code you'll find on the voucher when reserving. Located at The

Boathouse Restaurant in Simpson Bay. You must [download and use this certificate](#) when making your reservation to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#).

Celine Too Motor Yacht / Catamaran (Capt. Neil Roebert) [Members-only Discount for Tintamarre Day Sails and Lagoon Pub Crawls Aboard the Celine Too](#)-- Trips aboard Celine Too with Capt. Neil Roebert are always a real vacation highlight for us and they will be for you. As a JMB Website Supporters member, you get 10% off the price of a day trip to Tintamarre and 10% off the famous Lagoon Pub Crawl. You'll love them both. Use the code name [hidden] to identify yourself as a member. You can phone Neil at 1-721-526-1170 or just [go to his website](#). See next item, our [50% off](#) Sunday sunset lagoon cruises aboard the Celine Too; members only. (During low season, these trips occur on Tuesdays).

Celine Too Motor Yacht / Catamaran (Capt. Neil Roebert) 50% Off Sunday Sunset Cruises for JMB Members Only: Our members-only sunset lagoon cruises begin near The Stone Restaurant, Simpson Bay Lagoon, at 5pm on every Sunday of every month, through December, 2017. (In low season, trips are on Tuesdays.) Free bar features rum punch, beer, and soft drinks. (Sorry, no wine). 90 minutes of pure relaxation. Each cruise can accommodate a limited number of people, so reserve in advance directly with Capt. Neil Roebert by emailing him at neil@caribserve.net, or you can phone Neil at 1-721-526-1170, or just [go to his website](#). Trips are aboard the Celine Too Motoryacht. You **must** use the new code [hidden] to make your reservation. Membership will be verified before tickets are issued. Neil will email members their tickets stamped with the date and number of reservations. Members may reserve space for a maximum of two people per cruise. Members and spouses / significant others only, sorry, no children or other guests -- not enough room and we *always* give members priority. You *must* have the ticket and your current, valid JMB Membership Card with you and present them to Neil on boarding the cruise. Strictly for JMB Website Supporters members only.

Celine Too Motor Yacht Charters are available as well at a discount to JMB members. Call Capt. Neil directly at 721-526-1170. You must give him your JMB Website Supporters membership number when reserving and show him your unexpired Card and a government-issued photo ID upon arrival to obtain the 10% off all charter reservations. Also use the code [hidden].

Charter Yachting Discounts - Caicos Sailing: "Caicos Sailing Charter Yachting," based in Tortola, offers either 10% off all cruises/charters or 8 days for the price of 7. You must [download and use this certificate](#) when making your reservation to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). Offers available year 'round. To make reservations, please call [number and contact hidden].

Charter Yachting - Select Yacht Charters, a provider of luxury yacht charters in SXM and around the world, offers JMB Website Supporters members a free bottle of Dom Perignon champagne for all bookings of one week or more. To select your yacht and make your completely individualized booking, contact [hidden]. See their website: [hidden]. You must [download and use this certificate](#) when making your reservation with [hidden] to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#).

Charters - Seaside Charters offers boat charters to SXM beaches and neighboring islands. You can see all their charters at www.everythingsxm.com/secret/discounts/seasidecharterdescription.pdf. Owners Sabine and Ben offer JMB Website Supporters members a 10% discount on all day-charter boat tours. You must [download and use this certificate](#) to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#).

Classic Schooner Passaat offers JMB members discounts on its cruises: Sunset, \$30 p.p. (usually USD\$35); Dinner cruise, \$71 p.p. (usually USD \$79); and Day sails, \$80 p.p. (usually USD\$89). You must use the code [hidden] when making your reservation by phone at [hidden] or by email at [hidden]. Learn about this breathtaking, timeless 100+ year-old schooner at www.sailholiday.com.

Clothing-Optional Boat Charters - Captain Alan -- with five boats, five captains, and many excursions -- some clothing optional -- Capt. Alan offers \$5 off all trips to JMB Website Supporters members. Trips include 4 hour trip, normal rate \$69 pp, kids under 12 \$49 pp, kids under 4 go for free; 6 hour trip incl. lunch, rate \$99 pp, kids under 3 go for free; clothing-optional full day around the island \$125 pp; clothing-optional full day St. Barths \$135 pp; plus customized private charters St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Barths. You **must** [download and use this voucher](#) to get this exclusive JMB benefit. The voucher is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#).

Deep Sea Fishing, Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing Discounts Rudy Sierens, the Rudy of Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing, Dutch Side, is one of the most experienced captains working from SXM. You can see his website [here](#). Forget the rates listed on his site: yours are significantly lower. Here they are:

- A private half day trip for one up to four persons is \$500 including the discount. For each additional person up to six the rate is increased by \$100.
- A private 3/4 day trip for one up to four persons is \$700 including the discount. For each additional person up to six the rate is increased by \$100.

A private full day trip for one up to four persons is \$900 including the discount. Full day trips are not organized with more than four persons.

To book your trip, contact Rudy by landline, cell, or email: [contact details hidden]. To get the discount, you must use the current members-only code, which is [hidden]. More details, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, are on Rudy's site, [here](#). Valid JMB Membership Card required.

Diving - Octopus Diving in Grand Case does much more than diving; see their website, www.octopusdiving.com. Octopus offers JMB members \$5 off per activity, per person. This does not include purchases of merchandise, only activities. Simply use the code [hidden] when making your reservation. Current, valid JMB Membership Card required. Contact info hidden.

Garfield Fun Charters \$5 Per Family Member Discount: Garfield Fun Charters offers a number of enjoyable SXM sailing adventures; see www.garfieldfuncharters.com for details. Use the special code on this [downloadable certificate](#) when making an online or phone reservation directly with Garfield, or present the certificate when buying tickets in person directly from Garfield. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). Current, valid JMB Membership Card required.

Island Windjammers offers JMB Website Supporters members \$200 off six-day cruises from SXM to Anguilla, St. Kitts, Nevis, St. Barts, and St. Eustatius. You must download and use this certificate to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). Current, valid JMB Membership Card required.

Jet-Ski -- Happy Hour Charters offers JMB Website Supporters members 10% off JetSki rentals and other tours. See details on what they offer at www.happyhourxsm.com. Reservations must be made directly through Happy Hours Charters. You must download and use this certificate to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). Current, valid JMB Membership Card required.

Power Boat - Sea Angels is a charter business using a very fast 36-foot power boat able to travel to all local islands in comfort and speed. Day charter rates start from €800 for the day. The boat carries up to 8 people; all soft drinks are included as is the use of snorkeling gear. The Boat is based on the French side near Marina Royale, Marigot, and is available for charters virtually anywhere. Use the code [hidden] when you call the French Side at 590 690 22 45 17, or book through Peter Cohen at 590 590 51 06 65. See Peter at Caribbean Multihulls in Marina Royale, Marigot, where you'll get a warm personal welcome. JMB Members get a 10% discount on all charters when you use the members-only code [hidden]. Current, valid JMB Membership Card required.

Random Wind 54-foot traditional sailboat offers JMB Website Supporters members \$10 off the Paradise Day Sail *per person* when you book directly. Includes Lunch, Snacks, Open Bar, Tarzan Swing, Snorkeling & Fishing off the stern. You must download and use this certificate to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). Current, valid JMB Membership Card required.

N. B.: Your current, valid JMB Website Supporters membership card is required for all purchases. No card, no discounts. These are just a few of our roughly 300 member discounts across SXM. Join today. Links and rates are at the start of this article.

20. Recommended Car Rentals

The car rentals listed below will be formally joined this week by Next Level Car Rental. See next week's *Weekly News* for details:

JMB Website Supporters offers discounts from several fine local companies and, by popular request, we've recently added a major national provider, "Dollar/Thrifty," for those who prefer a major brand. It's listed here under Thrifty.

Car Rental Discounts from Leisure Car Rental: As a member, you are entitled to a car rental discount of 15% off standard rates. This discount is applicable regardless of the length of your rental. To get this discount, simply submit you reservation at www.leisurecarrentalsxsm.com and enter promo code [hidden]. Entering this promo code will automatically get you the 15% discount. You can also call toll free 1(844)545-2359, or email info@leisurecarrentalsxsm.com. Specify also that you are a JMB Website Supporters member looking for the member discount; you will be quoted the discounted rate. This benefit cannot be used in combination with any other discounts. When you arrive to pick up your car, you must present your valid JMB Website Supporters membership card to receive the members-only discount.

Car Rental Discounts from Thrifty Car Rental (Dollar/Thrifty): With over 600 cars in its fleet, Dollar Thrifty

offers JMB members a spectrum of cars from economy to luxury -- at 15% off all rentals. There is only one way to obtain this discount: Go to <http://www.thriftycarrentalsxm.com/>. Click "Reservations" to reserve your car, and in "Promo Code" enter [hidden]. Note: When you arrive to pick up your car, you *MUST* show your valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card and the customary license / photo ID. No current, valid JMB Membership Card, NO discount.

Car Rental Discounts from Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental: As a member, you are entitled to a car rental discount of \$15 off the standard weekly non-discounted car rental rates charged by Tropical-Tropicana car rental. This discount is applicable for one week; on the second week of a two-week rental, a \$5 discount applies. To get these discounts, you must make your reservation online at their website, www.tropical-tropicana.com, and you must include the special code name [hidden] in the comments section on their reservations page. Specify also that you are a JMB Website Supporters member looking for the member discount; you will be quoted the discounted rate. When you arrive to pick up your car, you must present your valid JMB Website Supporters membership card to receive the members-only discount. This benefit cannot be used in combination with any other discounts.

Car Rental Discounts from Unique Car Rental: As a member, you are entitled to a discount of \$15 off the standard weekly non-discounted car rental rates charged by Unique Car Rental. This discount is applicable for one week; on the second week of a two-week rental, a \$5 discount applies. To get these discounts, you must make your reservation by phone at 1-721-554-2858. You must include the special code name [hidden] when you make a reservation. Specify also that you are a JMB Website Supporters member looking for the member discount; you will be quoted the discounted rate. This benefit cannot be used in combination with any other discounts. When you arrive to pick up your car, you must present your valid JMB Website Supporters membership card to receive the members-only discount. Their new website is now live: <http://www.uniquecarrentalsxm.com> .

Rodael Car Rental Offers 15% Discounts to JMB Website Supporters members arriving by Cruise Ship: You must [download and use this certificate](#) when making your reservation to get the JMB discount. The discount coupon is in Adobe Acrobat PDF format; to open it, use the [free Adobe reader](#). When you arrive to pick up your car, you must present your valid JMB Website Supporters membership card to receive the members-only discount.

Our site now offers about 300 discounts. Join today; sale ends this Wednesday, June 21, and will not be further extended:

New JMB memberships: Three years, just \$89 Other durations available.
http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

21. Everyone: Please "Clean Up Your Act"

For whatever reason, lately people who visit St. Maarten beaches leave trash behind.

It only takes a minute to pick up the plates, cups, and wrappers you need to discard; please take them with you and throw them away at your hotel. We all want St. Maarten to be clean and beautiful and you can help. Thank you.

22. Taking a Land Tour? Where to Get Box Lunches

Any restaurant that's open all day will be happy to help you create a box lunch you can take with you. There are three we recommend — feel free to post others on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

The three are: Toppers in Simpson Bay which is open from early morning until very late at night. Big variety.

Vesna Taverna, also in Simpson Bay. Vesna is open for breakfast and lunch every day and dinner Wednesday through Sunday. You can have your box lunch made any time after opening.

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar at Dawn beach has a huge menu. The staff that's there early in the morning is the same staff that makes the lunches, so you can take your pick and have them made before you head out.

Many more recommendations about restaurants are in the restaurant section of our main site, www.everythingsxm.com.

23. No Life Guards: How To Protect Your Beach Safety

St. Maarten beach conditions vary daily. Today can be calm like a lake on a still day or very rough.

Regardless of conditions, be cautious — there are no lifeguards on either the Dutch or French side. Even if you're an experienced swimmer, make sure you're swimming with or near others: anything can happen and anything does happen, multiple times every year. One rogue wave, undertow, ripcurrents, or even a heart attack or stroke can ruin your day — be careful out there. Please also see story #31.

24. Taking An Extended Vacation? How NOT To Forget Stuff

At one time or another, most of us forget something — usually something small that just falls through the cracks during the packing process.

Here's one technique that can help you avoid forgetting things. When you're packing, picture yourself from the top of your head slowly moving down your body. That way, you'll remember things for your hair, ears, eyes, nose, face, mouth, neck, and so on. It's an easy way to remember items of clothing, cosmetics, medications, and more. If you considered everything going through this process, it's much less likely you'll forget anything.

25. Ditched Your eReader? Here's What To Do

Somewhere on their property, most resorts have a reading library. Even most villas have a shelf or two with reading material.

On beaches in SXM and elsewhere, the trend seems to be away from using Ereaders and back to books. Whether you like the feel, the smell, or whatever, books are back in vogue — now you know where to get them. Just make sure you bring some of your own books with you when visit SXM; after you read them, trade them with the books on the bookshelves.

It'll make for more interesting reading for everyone.

26. SXM Calendar of Events: How You Can Help

Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) includes a list of holidays on both sides of the island. You'll find it in the "Files" section there.

During the year, various special events are held and are promoted locally. To make sure everyone knows about these events, we may mention them either here in *SXM Weekly News* or on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Our intent is to list both holidays and special events in the calendar there.

If you know of special events happening while you're on the island, by all means post them on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site so everyone can share the info. Our site is also great place for you to learn what's going on during the week you visit the island.

In addition, go to www.everythingsxm.com and click "Entertainment Calendar" in the vertical navigation bar. Very good info there, too.

27. Introducing "Heart of SXM"

The people of St. Maarten / St. Martin really do have hearts of gold. We've seen or heard of countless examples:

A tourist on his way back to the airport inadvertently left a camera and some personal items in a taxi. The taxi driver was unable to contact the tourist, so he packed up the camera and the ID material and shipped it to the tourist's home, where it arrived safe and sound a couple of days after he did.

My car had a flat tire one evening after a day at Cupecoy beach. I asked Dany, one of the men who handles beach chairs, drinks, and the LoLo, if he could phone my car rental company for help. He asked what the problem was, I told him, he changed the tire, and he refused to take any money for it.

A tourist trying to drive to the Westin hotel from SXM Airport got hopelessly lost and asked someone on the street if he could help. The man who was asked got into his car and led the tourist to the Westin. The tourist was so grateful that he asked the man, retiree, if he would be willing to drive him around to places through the week (SXM's version of Uber); the man agreed, and that started a long-term friendship.

What examples can you give us about "the heart of SXM"? Email susan@jmbcommunications.com with your example, using the subject "heart of SXM." We look forward to publishing such stories on a regular basis.

28. Indulge Yourself: A Highlight of Your Next Trip

Massage therapists who have deeply studied their craft and know what they are doing are a breed unto themselves.

After using her services for somewhere close to 15 years, we can say that Tricia Altenau is the best massage therapist we've had the good fortune to encounter anywhere. Not only does her work help improve how you feel at the time of the massage, the results last for several days, at least in our experience. We urge you to give her a try on your next trip to the island. Check out AIA massage therapy at www.aiamassage.com. She has our highest recommendation; she has received our Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence every year since we launched them in 2013 -- and she gives discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members. See the secret site for details. Don't miss seeing Tricia on your next SXM trip.

Not a member? Join (or renew / reinstate) already; sale must end 6/21, this Wednesday:

New JMB memberships: Three years, just \$89 Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

29. Keep **SXM Weekly News** Coming: Join JMB Today

It takes a lot of time for us to gather, write, and report all the news of interest to St. Maarten / St. Martin tourists every week. Without our JMB Website Supporters members, it wouldn't be possible to continue to produce *SXM Weekly News*.

Help keep **SXM Weekly News** coming every week: join JMB Website Supporters today and you'll quickly get all our hundreds of SXM discounts and other benefits. The sale must end Wednesday, June 21 and will not be further extended. Help us keep helping you:

New JMB memberships: Three years, just \$89 Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

30. 10-Year Price Guarantee Now from SkyMed

SkyMed is now offering a remarkable 10 year price guarantee on its best memberships, the SkyMed five-year Ultimate. SkyMed ultimate memberships cost only \$499 per year when you pay for their full five year duration at membership inception. When applying, if you indicate on the application that you want to renew automatically, that renewal will be charged at the same \$499/year when you pay for the full five year renewal at its inception. All SkyMed memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of health or attained age: This Ten-year price guarantee is remarkable especially considering what you get: see the details here. The best way to get your questions answered is to call Jeff directly on his SkyMed line, 508-747-8281. He can also take your application by phone and send it to them electronically. Most applications are processed within a few business days. Get it today — make your next trip worry free.

31. SkyMed "Guaranteed Renewable" Memberships

As most JMB readers are well aware, the SkyMed medical evacuation service takes SkyMed members home when they become critically ill or injured while traveling.

One of SkyMed's most remarkable features, available to members who have purchased annual or multiyear memberships, is guaranteed renewability regardless of age or health at the time of renewal. You can apply for SkyMed at any age; joining simply requires you to complete a very brief health questionnaire — just a few questions.

Once you're a member, you can continue to be a member regardless of age or health, simply by renewing your membership on time. Short term SkyMed memberships do not have this feature. Longer term (annual or multiyear) memberships are also less expensive per day: roughly \$1.30 for your family per day for annual and multiyear memberships versus \$15 per day for your family for short-term memberships (generally a few days to a week or two).

We can answer any of your questions; just write to jeff.berger@skymed.com or see our site, www.getskymed.com or [phone Jeff at 508-747-8281](tel:508-747-8281) during normal business hours. Get it before you need it so it's ready to help you when the time comes....

Talk to us? Call Jeff at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only).

32. Enter Our Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway

Our Sum-Sum Summertime SXM vacation giveaway has begun and 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, 2017. Here is our current prize list. Since this giveaway promotes non high-season visits to SXM, most of these vacations are yours from mid April to mid December, 2018. All vacations are subject to availability.

- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at La Vista Resort, May through December 2018.
- 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.
- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful Oyster Bay Beach Resort.
- Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano at Simpson Bay Resort. (One winner)
- Dinner for Two at Spiga, the highly acclaimed Italian Restaurant in Grand Case. (One winner.)

More coming.

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

33. A Closer Look at Best Reasons for Taking SXM Summer Vacations: Part 6

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.

We've explored all of these items in recent weeks.

Bottom line, Summer weather in SXM is great -- hardly any days as sweltering hot & breezeless as big US cities, uncrowded, no lines at restaurants, beaches have plenty of room, and hotels and car rentals are way cheaper than in high season.

This Summer get away from it all: on SXM.... Enter our "Summertime" giveaway for a 2018 Summer vacation in SXM: [Enter here](#).

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 www.getskymed.com.

34. 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).

Annals 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).

35. Restaurant of the Week: Island Pizza

One thing is for sure: on St. Maarten, there is no shortage of Italian restaurants, places to get pizza, and seafood restaurants.

The key is to get the most authentic and delicious pizza that's available.

We've long recommended both Trattoria Pizza Pasta in the Maho area and Island Pizza, founded just a few years ago with very traditional recipes just outside Mr. Busby's Beach Bar/Daniel's by the Sea. We recently also recommended La Patrona, the new authentic Mexican restaurant within Simpson Bay resort on the Marina Plaza, that offers excellent pizza during the day.

The one that offers an amazing Caribbean atmosphere — where you dine under the palms and are caressed by tradewinds coming off Dawn beach, at the edge of which Island Pizza is located — is Island Pizza. This restaurant uses authentic Italian family recipes handed down over generations. The pizza served here is genuine thin crust, sprinkled with just the right amount of delicious toppings and spices. You can have it next-door at the restaurant with other folks who are dining on pizza or other items from Busby's or Daniel's, or you can have it in front of or next to the pizza shop itself. Or take it home.

Regardless of your choice of location or ingredients, you will flat-out love Island Pizza. Like Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and Daniel's by the Sea, Island Pizza also offers discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the secret website.

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

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 5/1/17)

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

Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 6/5/17)

Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/29/17)

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/6/17; added 2/17)

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 4/10/17)

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 3/13/17

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/19/16)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16)

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 3/25/17)

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/30/17; added 1/17)

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/Paginas/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16)

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 5/21/17)

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

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

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

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17)

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

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

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

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 5/14/17)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/19/17)
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 9/19/16)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16)
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017)
FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17)
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)

36. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #27

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.

Cugini (Marigot): Decades ago, Sam Runza sold exotic cars back home in Toronto. Sam and Francesca loved St. Maarten and visited often, and bought a villa in pelican key. Sam's passion was always Italian cooking. When he discovered his cousin Tony on French St. Martin after years out of touch, Sam convinced Tony to partner with him and open a restaurant in downtown Marigot. This was real Italian food served with homemade expertise. In recent years, Marigot has not been what it was, and Sam ultimately relocated his restaurant to a waterfront location in Simpson Bay, next to the Fedex building. The place was filled nightly with people from all walks of life from both sides of the island — an instant hit. Then, Sam had health issues and had to return home to Toronto for urgent medical care. He passed away from cancer early in 2016. Under his cousin (cugini in Italian) Tony's watchful eye, the restaurant has continued to serve many loyal customers — but Sam and his wonderful smile and genuine friendship will always be remembered and he is greatly missed.

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 over 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)
- 25 - Mario's Bistrot (Marigot) F (updated name and moved to Dutch Side, D)
- 26 - Pinocchio's (D)
- 27 - Cugini (French Side) (F)

Coming soon:
Zachary's (D)

You can read about all of these past restaurants by checking back issues of *SXM Weekly News* on our PDF archives page.

37. Should You Get a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages

Short term SkyMed Medical Evacuation memberships are cheap, only \$15/day per couple (including minor children) or \$9/day for an individual. Pre-existing conditions are covered immediately for those who qualify.

But the bad news is that once your short-term membership ends, it's over, and you must medically requalify to get coverage for any subsequent trip. *Your health can change instantly so letting a membership disappear like that isn't the best thing to do for yourself.*

Annual and multiyear memberships cost only about \$1.30/day per couple -- way cheaper. They include more benefits -- especially Ultimate memberships. [See all the features and benefits here.](#)

SkyMed never increases the pricing on its memberships related to your advancing age or declining health. *Once you sign up for SkyMed, you're a member for life as long as you pay your renewals on time. And SkyMed never cancels anyone because of advancing age or declining health.*

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

More stories follow.

38. 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?

39. 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. *SkyMed is your free ticket home* aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to help make sure everything goes as it should.

How SkyMed Works: Like clockwork, you're taken from the hospital by ambulance to a waiting aircraft at SkyMed's expense; SkyMed makes all the arrangements and pays all costs for the medical evacuation jet and for the ambulance at the destination which takes you to a waiting team at your destination hospital, which already has your medical records and is ready to start helping you. There are no co-pays, 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 payable in cash in advance to pay for an emergency medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you, for a small membership fee; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going.

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

See www.getskymed.com 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, **your membership cannot be discontinued as a result of advancing age or declining health*** — two critically important advantages that ensure you have coverage when you may need it most.

Third, Ultimate memberships cover multiple years and provide protection worldwide. The only exceptions are places like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, North Korea — places you won't visit anyway. (Ask before going anywhere dangerous/unusual.) Ultimate memberships also offer the greatest breadth of coverage. You can see a complete list of all the features and benefits of these coverages [here](#).

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

In addition to everything else, Jeff Berger has been a SkyMed rep -- and now a SkyMed Ambassador -- for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com. He generally returns messages within 24 hours. To see [online frequently asked questions, go here](#). You can also see his SkyMed site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

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

For more on JMB memberships, see below, Join, renew, or reinstate now. See our current low sale pricing at the beginning of this section: sale ends soon.

New JMB memberships

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

More stories are below.

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

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

40. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Look:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

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

41. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

Traveling Anywhere?

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret. Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

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

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

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

LEGAL:

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

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

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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

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

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

6/19/17 #1102 6/17/17 600P EDT 11.5

| [Terms of use](#) |

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