

Jeff Berger's St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News

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

#941

Weekly SXM News and Comments

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Important Note:

You are receiving [St. Maarten and St. Martin 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 all year long. We now have over

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



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Attention iPad and Smart Phone Users

This new format is easily readable on most mobile devices; scroll down for this week's news. A very small number of older Android phones may have issues; if so, download a pdf of the latest edition here:

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

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

Or see a mostly text version of the latest edition:

Get Your Own Free Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

TOP STORIES

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

This is issue #941 of Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday all year long (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You're receiving this because you subscribed or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

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

- *Many Questions, Few Answers on Timesharing Properties*
- *Recheck Your Reservations Regardless of the Airline*
- *Summer Fares Not Likely To Drop Much, But We're Watching Them For JMB Members*
- *Fewer Chikungunya Cases Reported; Situation "Stable"*
- *Our Thanks To You For Resubscribing to SXM Weekly News*
- *Humpback Whales Near SXM Get Satellite Tracking; Will You See Them Off New England?*

- Dutch Side May Announce "Dollarisation" Decision in June
- Avoid Sea Turtle Nesting Sites
- Got a Spare \$50,000 in Cash? You May Need it on This Trip to SXM

21 new stories this week

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

Timeshare Rentals and Sale of the Week

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

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week (Two):

RENTAL 6/7/2014 6/21/2014 Week 23 and 24 The Towers at Mullet Bay Week 23, two bedroom 2 bath penthouse unit with 3 balconies overlooking Mullet Bay and lagoon. Daily maid service included. Week 24, two bedroom 2 bath second floor unit overlooking lagoon. Resort is very quite and relaxing. May rent together or separate Week 23 \$1400.00 , Week 24 \$1000.00 Debra (970)856-4306 Smithdjmd@gmail.com

RENTAL 1/17/2015 1/24/2015 3 Diamond Resorts Flamingo Beach Resort Deluxe beachfront studio (7120) at beach level on the Dutch side of St. Maarten facing Simpson Bay; just a few steps from the beach. Fully equipped kitchen, king size bed and convertible sofa. Sleeps 4. Veranda with table, chairs and chaise lounge. 2 TVs and DVD player. This timeshare resort has 2 beautiful beaches, a large infinity swimming pool, on premises restaurants, a French bakery, a deli and many other amenities,. Many excellent restaurants very close by. Close to airport and convenient to excellent shopping in Philipsburg and Marigot. Available to rent from Jan. 17-24, 2015 (Sat.-Sat) \$1300/wk plus \$50 timeshare tax. Yale 5166796733 yrosen@optonline.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE: 2/1/2014 - 2/8/2014 (week 5) Simpson Bay Resort Marina 207, prime winter week -- sleep-four studio overlooking both the Marina pool and quiet Pelican beach, just steps away. Resort offers several pools, many restaurants including the Stone, tennis courts, a convenience store, water sports, casino, and The Red Piano piano bar. Unit features a/c, stove, refrigerator, microwave, cable TV, sleeps four, very convenient. Reduced to only \$2200. Will turn back to the resort if this is not sold by Fall 2014. Please contact Susan or Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or susan@jmbcommunications.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083

Search the *SXM Weekly News Archives*:

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

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

Current Archives:

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?f=archive&list=2014SXM>

Archives prior to April 12 2014:

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

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

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing list of 200+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

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

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Scroll down for indexes to sections IV and V, and scroll further to get a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel discounts.

Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

Section Four: For Members Only (Revised 12/17/13)

- A. About Low Airfares We Post On The *Secret Site*
- B. All the Answers for JWS members: Just Click the Link
- C. Members: Why Check Airfares Daily?
- D. Members: Password Recovery Info
- E. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads

Section Five: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 12/17/13)

How To Get a GROWING LIST of 200+ Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

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

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

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

Contact Us:

[Revised 12/17/13]

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including *Low Airfare Bulletins*) 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 Pilots To Unionize

Jet Blue Airways has always prided itself on top-notch relationships with all its employees, but unions have been busy during the last several years courting various groups of JB employees.

Last week, the National Mediation Board (NMB) announced that the 2,600+ pilots at JetBlue Airways had voted overwhelmingly to join the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA).

Of the votes cast, 71% of JetBlue pilots voted for ALPA. "The win shows the strong desire of JetBlue pilots to gain a meaningful voice in their future, the certainty of a collective bargaining agreement, and the resources needed to be relevant. These objectives motivated the overwhelming grass roots effort by JetBlue pilots which led to today's vote," ALPA said in a news release.

"ALPA welcomes the JetBlue pilots," said Capt. Lee Moak, ALPA president. "The Association is ready to work with JetBlue pilots to achieve their goals. They make our union stronger by adding their unified voices to the Association's strong bargaining and advocacy efforts."

"Today, JetBlue pilots have voted for ALPA representation so that we have the ability to improve our professional careers," said Captains Gustavo Rivera and Rocky Durham, co-chairs of the JetBlue Organizing Committee. "As committed as we are to our objectives, we also want to work with management to ensure we continue to contribute positively to JetBlue's success. We believe in JetBlue and look forward to helping make this company one of the best in the industry."

Jet Blue Airways was the sole airline recipient of our Everything St. Maarten 2014 Award of Excellence, which they received at their Long Island headquarters earlier this month.

2. Recheck Your Reservations Regardless of the Airline

As they do every year at this time, airlines are changing flight times, frequencies, and equipment. From now through summer and fall, do check with your airline on a regular basis to see if there have been any changes to your itinerary; airlines don't always tell you. One young lady we know a few years ago was in the ladies room at Boston Logan and when she got to the gate, she found her plane had left an hour before; she had never been told it had changed its schedule. That happens more often than you might think. Do check....

Also check out our favorite travel site when making your reservations: www.flytravelgo.com.

3. Summer Fares Not Likely To Drop Much, But We're Watching Them For JMB Members

Airlines (except Jet Blue) continue to cram a lot of people into reduced-sized fleets, which means they overbook and can generally get what they want for fares. But Caribbean fares in summer -- particularly as hurricane season heats up -- do shrink to more reasonable levels, and we watch them like a hawk for you. We'll report the lowest fares to our JMB Website Supporters members via Low Airfare Bulletins this summer, and of course will be updating our Low Fare Grid when we find significant changes.

If you're still not a JMB member, you're spending too much \$\$\$ on fares and everything else. Members also get about 200 SXM discounts and still more are coming. Check us out at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

4. Weather: Hot, Hot, Hot

Weather this time of year does get hotter, but not usually *this* hot. A few people told us weather one day last week was well up there which, if true, would be very unusual for this island since it's caressed by gentle tradewinds.

No matter. The folks we heard from were from Boston, Minnesota, and Ontario, Canada, and they were delighted to be on the island and away from that long, brutal winter. "I don't care how hot it gets here," one said. "It can never make up for all the brain-numbing cold we put up with all winter."

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. Many Questions, Few Answers on Timesharing Properties

Nothing new to report on the continuing soap operas concerning three major SXM timesharing resorts.

At **Simpson Bay Resort / Pelican Resort**, the consensus among employees we talked to was that The Seminole Tribe / Hard Rock International won't say anything until after all the major renovations there – initiated by Royal Resorts – have been completed (see next story) and the lawsuit regarding the legitimacy of the auction of Pelican is settled in court. That case goes to trial next month (May).

At **Sapphire Beach**, the prospective new owners are "acting like they own the place," said one timeshare owner last week. We have not heard anything formal related to any deal there having been consummated, but we think it's pretty close.

And at **Caravanserai**, still nothing final about American / Canadian investors who are reportedly still negotiating with Scotia Bank to finalize a deal. We believe that one is close, too.

Meanwhile, **Radisson Blu** in French St. Martin, a beautiful property which has undergone about \$120-million in renovations in the last several years, has been sold to Riu, a large family-owned hospitality company founded in Mallorca in 1953. This summer, it will be rebranded the Riu Palace St. Martin, as we reported last week. If you have Radisson reservations, you would be wise to reconfirm them.

Tell us: If you visit any of these resorts, let us know what you think. You can email us at [jmbweb\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb[at]jmbcommunications.com).

SECTION 3: Island

***For a per-day cost of about \$1.30,
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SkyMed "Takes You Home" coverage takes you home in an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you become critically ill or injured in any of 34 countries -- the USA, Canada, Mexico, all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba if you are a Canadian or an American traveling there with State Department approval, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Costa Rica and Belize. Elsewhere worldwide, when you buy the five-year SkyMed Ultimate, SkyMed gets you to the nearest appropriate facility for care and recuperation. SkyMed also gets you home when medically necessary in a hospital bed with a qualified medical attendant in a private section of a passenger flight, or in a medical evacuation jet when medically necessary.

The price of the five-year SkyMed Ultimate is just \$499/year when paid in full for five years at inception. Economical three-year SkyMed Ultimate memberships are also available. You can also buy standard one-year SkyMed memberships that cover you in the 34 countries noted above, or short-term memberships for a few days (under \$9 per person per day, maximum under \$18/day). *Remember by contrast the five-year Ultimate's per-day cost is about \$1.30.* JMB Website Supporters members always get the lowest possible prices.

The SkyMed Bonus means JMB Website Supporters members buying new five-year Ultimates from us get their JMB memberships extended for five full years *on us*. Just tell us after you buy.

For more information, call Jeff Berger at 1-508-830-3456 (10-4 EDT) or call SkyMed directly at 1-800-475-9633 during normal business hours weekdays Pacific time and ask for Nan. Tell her if you're a JMB member and have your Membership Card handy to get your members-only discount.

SkyMed *Takes You Home* -- what else matters?

P. S.: Jeff is looking to recruit travelers (retired people and others) to sell SkyMed part time. Jeff -- working part-time on SkyMed himself -- is now the third highest SkyMed producer worldwide. Talk to him; he's at 1-508-830-3456 (10-4 EDT).

6. Important Secret Site Access News for Users of America Online (AOL)

AOL caches (stores) images of many websites on its own servers. When you want to access those sites, it serves up its "cache". The bad news is that a cached site is not a live site, so you can't log into the Secret Site through AOL's internal browser. Most prior AOL users know that and many have abandoned AOL because of that and because hordes of AOL members seem to get their AOL emails hacked every day.

If you have AOL, please download and use a different browser and use it outside of AOL. Both Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are very good, and should enable you to access our live site with no problem whatever. (Avoid Internet Explorer; it right now has a serious vulnerability that could compromise your computer.)

As always, if you have any questions about your JMB membership, email Membership Services at [support\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support[at]jmbcommunications.com).

If you're looking for an alternative to AOL, look into gmail -- we have never heard a single complaint about gmail and have never seen it hacked.

7. Rotary Introduces "Tourism Is Our Business" Campaign

The Rotary Club of St. Maarten has announced a multiyear public awareness campaign, Tourism is Our Business, in an effort build a greater understanding among all members of the SXM community of what makes the island's economic engine work.

According to Maria Buncamper-Molanus, President of the Rotary Club of St. Maarten, "Depending on which study you look at, somewhere between 80% and 90% of every dollar spent on St. Maarten comes from the tourism industry." That means everyone who lives and works on SXM relies on tourism to earn a living.

In a news release, Rotary noted, "So, who needs tourists? We [all] do: remember, wherever you work, wherever you play, wherever you go to school, tourism is our business."

This multiyear campaign was launched at the Rotary Club of St. Maarten's weekly luncheon meeting at Divi Little Bay Resort, with an address from St. Maarten's Minister of Tourism and Economic Affairs, Ted Richardson. Mr. Richardson told Rotary members, "We are all St. Maarten, we all need tourists. I love Sint Maarten and we all need to let our visitors know they are important and we want them to come back and visit our island year round. You said it best with your campaign, tourism is our business."

Mrs. Buncamper added, "I am pleased to kick off this multiyear campaign. This might just be one of the most important projects ever taken on by this Rotary Club. So, be prepared to be reminded about the importance of tourism everywhere you turn. I also want to thank MNO, our primary sponsor, for this all important awareness campaign. Without their support, none of this would be possible, so on behalf of our club, please accept a big thank you from all of us."

8. Watch Yourself Driving in Rain From Indigo Roundabout to Learning Unlimited

Many tourists heading to Philipsburg from Cole Bay or Simpson Bay take the shortcut at the Indigo Bay roundabout, heading down the hill toward the ocean after Cay Hill / Indigo Bay. They make a sharp right turn at the bottom of the first hill, then pass Learning Unlimited where they make a left turn toward the Bel Air roundabout before driving on the ocean road by Belair Resort and Divi to Philipsburg.

We just wanted to pass along that in rainy weather, driving down that hill can be quite treacherous. Please drive carefully there and as you pass the entrance to Divi Little Bay, another scene of multiple serious accidents.

9. Fewer Chikungunya Cases Reported; Situation "Stable"

Reports of the Chikungunya virus on SXM are continuing to decline on a week-by-week basis, as has been the case for a number of weeks. There has been heavy mosquito fogging on both sides of the island, intensive education about dispersing standing water, plus education about using mosquito repellents. All those efforts, plus dry weather, have helped cut Chikungunya.

There has also been extensive cooperation and coordination between the French and Dutch Sides on anti-Chikungunya efforts. Chikungunya news put out by the U. S. and Canadian governments last December -- never fully countered by SXM -- led to substantial trip cancellations by tourists, particularly those headed to the French Side where the outbreak was initially reported. These cancellations started to hit in March after the Regatta.

The lack of response by SXM was despite the fact that Chikungunya (pronounced chicken GOON yuh) is less severe than Dengue Fever, which has been in the tropics virtually worldwide for many years. Chikungunya appears to be supplanting Dengue now. It's no fun, but it's better than Dengue...

10. Our Thanks To You For Resubscribing to SXM Weekly News

Thank you for re-subscribing to *SXM Weekly News* -- resubscribing is what enabled you to see this week's edition and all our future editions.

Resubscribing was dictated by our ISP -- it wasn't our idea. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Important: Although we now have contacted everyone who had been receiving *SXM Weekly News* before, you can help us ensure that everyone who should receive *SXM Weekly News* does receive it. Please share this issue with all your SXM friends and suggest they visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?> then enter their email in the first section of the page under the "2014 ST. MAARTEN" newsletter, which is our new list and which has been preselected for them. Then, they click the button that reads "submit your information." They'll receive a confirming email just as you did. They click the "confirm" link and they are on the list. They will receive the most recent issue when they sign up. (Easy to just send this article to them.)

Please be sure to add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book / white list so our newsletters aren't snagged by any anti-spam program.

Note: At the moment Comcast is blocking *SXM Weekly News*, a situation we expect they will resolve shortly. If any of your friends are Comcast subscribers, they should either use a non-Comcast address (not AOL, which has its own issues) or view the most recent issue online. We are posting a link every week to a downloadable PDF of our most recent newsletters -- see http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Your SXM friends can get simple signup instructions by emailing jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com. The autoreply contains full signup info.

Thanks again.

We have *two hundred* reasons for people to join JMB and renew by the thousands. Some have renewed their memberships past the year 2030. 200 reasons? We offer you about 200 discounts plus low airfares plus free ads to rent out or sell your timeshares not only in SXM, but worldwide. A one-year membership is just \$59. Join, reinstate, or renew today. Then you can write your own reason.... See www.everythingsxm.com

Get a [Website That Works](#) for your business or professional practice from JMB, a *seasoned 24 year-old marketing company*:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

11. Humpback Whales Near SXM Get Satellite Tracking; Will You See Them Off New England?

Humpback whales visit the Caribbean every Summer to give birth to calves. But this year, something new has been added:

The SXM Nature Foundation joined other organizations in placing satellite tracking tags on eight whales in the waters surrounding Dutch St. Maarten, French St. Martin, St. Barths and Anguilla.

The whales can be tracked via "track the tagged whales" live on www.seaturtle.org/megara, the news release says -- but we tried that link and it didn't work. You can see tagging here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtkfuVD3Zow>. We also found current tracking info here: http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=979&dyn=1398789145

The full story:

In late March and early April the Nature Foundation partnered with La Reserve Naturelle De St. Martin, the Megara Foundation and marine conservation organizations of the surrounding islands to place Argos satellite tracking tags and to take biopsies of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in local waters. The main aim of the project was to determine the migration patterns of local humpback whales when they leave St. Maarten breeding areas for feeding areas in northern climates. Until now there has been no real data on where local humpback whales migrate to although there is some speculation within the scientific community that St. Maarten's whales migrate to either Greenland or the coast of Norway. The Argos satellite tracking tags were placed by whale expert Mikkel Villem Jensen and biopsies were taken with a crossbow by biopsy shooters Tadzio Bervoets, Frank Roncuzzi, Nicolas Maslach and Steeve Ruillet. The biopsy Samples were also an important component of the expedition and will be used to conduct DNA study of the whales. Biopsy samples were shipped to the University of Groningen for study. Whales have a thick Layer of blubber and both the satellite tag and the biopsy for DNA analyses cause no discomfort to the animals.

Our hunch? They'll come to Cape Cod or the Gulf of Maine, like so many whales do every year. They love the seafood...

12. Directional Signs Being Posted Across Dutch Side

They're common around the civilized world but have never been very common across SXM: directional signs.

Some 90 directional signs have started to be posted, a process expected to be finished some time in June. The signs are green, like US directional signs, but much smaller.

We've suggested in the past that the Dutch and French Sides cooperate on establishing "routes" on the island. One obvious one could be a Great Circle Route (route 1?) which essentially circumnavigates the island, including spurs (think 9a-z like upstate New York or 295, 395, 495, etc. off route 95 on the US east coast). Anything to make visiting the island easier and more fun for tourists could be a real asset for the island at very low cost.

13. Dutch Side May Announce "Dollarisation" Decision in June

The Dutch Side has been pondering a move toward "dollarisation" of its currency, which would make the US dollar the island's official currency. That would make it far easier to figure out what you're paying particularly at Dutch Side supermarkets and gas stations. There seems to be lots of sentiment on the island in favor of dollars, which are accepted practically everywhere.

Dollarization is not an option on the French Side, where Euros are used, though dollars are easily accepted there.

14. Avoid Sea Turtle Nesting Sites

Rare and endangered sea turtles are again nesting on SXM beaches. They dig wide holes, lay eggs, and cover them with sand on Simpson Bay Beach, Guana Bay, Gibbs Bay, and even Dawn Beach. Nests must be left undisturbed to enable the hatchlings to emerge safely on their own, and head for the sea.

The Nature Foundation oversees nesting sea turtles on SXM. To report nesting or illegal activity, call the Nature Foundation office at 544-4267 or e-mail info@naturefoundation-sxm.org

15. Seasoned Restaurateur Seeks Limited Financing for New Venture in Simpson Bay

An American who has spent most of his life in SXM and who is a seasoned restaurateur is developing a new restaurant concept in Simpson Bay. For personal reasons unrelated to the project, a financial backer has withdrawn from the project leaving it just short of the funds it needs to finish its buildout and opening.

The restaurateur is seeking only \$50K -- a loan which would be secured by over \$110K in owned equipment. If you are interested in becoming involved in an ambitious new venture by people who are seasoned pros, email jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Restaurant Venture" and we'll forward your email directly to the principal for response.

16. Some SXM Restaurants Start Charging for No-Show Reservations

Several SXM restaurants are now charging people who make reservations then don't show up and don't cancel.

Some people arrogantly make multiple reservations, then go to the restaurant that suits them without bothering to cancel at the others. That deprives the victimized restaurants the opportunity to fill their seats and earn revenue which is quite unfair. Many restaurants worldwide are taking credit card numbers when people make reservations, and they charge them if they don't cancel and don't show up. It's a fair practice and we wholly support it. Please... if you can't go after you've made a reservation, cancel it as quickly as you possibly can....

17. Steel Pan Music of the Week

Our newest feature brings you steel band / steel orchestra selections every week. Only great stuff will be here.

The most recent post is on top; prior weeks are below:

4/28/14 Exodus Steel Orchestra, one of the biggest you will ever see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I9UUFoU9EU>

4/21/14: From the Steel Band de Cuba, Hotel California as you've never, ever heard it before: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDeynJzc7ds>

4/7/14: The Lion Sleeps Tonight by the Dover Steel Band. Wait for it: surprising, really cool stuff: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woBZME7sN3E>

3/31/14: Elite Steel Orchestra, Billie Jean by Michael Jackson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qxamhMRZrc> (We heard this performed live in Tobago a number of years ago... beautiful stuff.)

18. Restaurant of the Week: (Our Weekly Pick)

The aptly named Hideaway is a hidden gem nestled inside La Vista Resort in Pelican Key.

It has excellent homestyle food, entertainment, and a beautiful ocean view. Their website, which you'll find in the list below, doesn't show nearly enough of their food but what it does show gives you reason enough to go. La Vista and The Hideaway both offer discounts to JMB members; JMB Website Supporters members, see our "Secret Website" for details. You can log easily in using the orange login medallion below the masthead on any page of www.everythingsxm.com. The Hideaway is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Check this space for another featured restaurant next week.

Previous Restaurants of the Week:

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 4/21/14)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 3/10/14)

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 3/21/14)

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 1/20/13)

Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 4/7/14)

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 1/13/14)

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 3/3/14)

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 2/24/14)

Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/6/14)

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 3/17/14)

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com>

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/3/14)

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 1/6/14)

SPN Cafe, <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html>

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there).

FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/31/14)

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 2/10/14)

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/>

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/>

Soprano's Restaurant, Maho Plaza, <http://www.sopranospianobar.com/stmaarten/restaurant/> (featured 3/3/14)

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

We'll write about another SXM restaurant here next week.

19. Got a Spare \$50,000 in Cash? You May Need it on This Trip to SXM

Travel anywhere without medical evacuation protection, and you must pay upwards of \$50,000 (could be \$35,000 to \$70,000 or more) in cash in advance to get an ICU-equivalent, clinically staffed medical evacuation jet home when you become critically ill or injured.

When you become critically ill or injured while traveling, SkyMed® takes you home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust. One call and they do everything – you pay nothing. No claim forms since you pay nothing that needs reimbursement; SkyMed pays it all. For information on SkyMed's offerings, see www.skymed.com/jmbxsm. JMB members, see the Secret Site since you get big discounts.

SkyMed offers short-term plans (just reduced to less than \$9/day per person, maximum \$18/day per family), annual plans (a better buy), and the SkyMed Ultimate which protects you for three or five full years – the best plan of all. The Ultimate is what we own and it's what hundreds of JMB members have chosen. And again, there are big discounts for JMB Website Supporters members, too.

The **SkyMed Ultimate** protects you with SkyMed "takes you home" in 34 countries – the U. S., Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba if you are there with State Department approval, plus Costa Rica and Belize. The Ultimate includes GETS protection (Global Emergency Transport Services) in the rest of the world. Other plans do not include GETS.

For more info, call SkyMed at 1-800-475-9633 weekdays mountain time (Scottsdale, Arizona) and ask for Nan or Jim. If you are a JMB member, tell them you are a JMB Website Supporters member. If you're not a JMB Website Supporters member, get about 200 SXM discounts by joining today (see article above re: our anniversary sale). More on JMB Website Supporters: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml **JMB members buying the five year Ultimate through us get a five-year extension of their JMB Website Supporters membership as part of the bargain. Just tell us you bought SkyMed as directed here (through us), and we'll extend your membership once we verify your SkyMed Ultimate purchase through us. Those buying the three-year Ultimate from us now get a three-year extension of their JMB membership, which is new.**

If you're a JMB member, you can also go to www.skymed.com/jmbspecial. Please have your JMB membership card handy.

20. Reserve Your Free Tuesday Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now

A relaxing, informative lagoon sunset sail is one of our long-time JMB Website Supporters member benefits. Sunset sails fill up fast -- we have nearly 20,000 members -- so go to the Secret Website, check out this benefit in the Discounts Master Index, and sign up now. The Secret Site is at www.everythingsxm.com/secret. Your username and password are required.

Sunset sails are now offered on Tuesdays.

Still not a member? What are you waiting for? Check out membership here: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

21. Caribbean Recipe of the Week: Take a Look

Our newest recipe is on top. We grow this list every week, so ultimately you'll see tons of prior recipes here in one convenient place.

Entrees:

Caribbean Fish with Mango Salsa: <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/caribbean-fish-with-mango-salsa/>

Sugarcane shrimp: <http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/Sugarcane-Shrimp-358593>

Tropical coconut bread: <http://www.food.com/recipe/tropical-coconut-bread-29185>

Rock Lobster Thermidor (from Cuba): http://www.caribxseafoods.com/recipes-cuban_rock_lobster_thermidor.html

Almond crusted fresh fish (from the Bahamas): https://www.bahamabreeze.com/recipes/main_dishes/almond_crusted_fresh_fish.asp

Desserts:

Caribbean banana Mango Smoothies: <http://www.food.com/recipe/caribbean-banana-mango-smoothie-230184>

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Page Updated Every Other Weekday

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://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

***2014 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale* are posted at**

http://everythingxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every other weekday. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13)

Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection:

SkyMed Takes You Home® if you become critically ill or injured while traveling more than 100 miles from home in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, plus Belize and Costa Rica. Learn more at www.skymed.com/jmbsxm . Highest recommendation by JMB.

Travel Arrangements & Accommodations:

For The Best Prices On Individual and Group Tours to St. Maarten & St. Martin, as well as stays at B&Bs, condos, hotels, and villas, visit our sponsor: **Sandy Molloy at SXM Travel Specialists** -- <http://www.stmartin-stmaartentravelspecialists.com> 704-567-6661

Rent **St. Maarten Villas** is the website of Villalady Bobby Valins, showcasing her villas in Burgeaux Bay and in Grand Case. See her site at www.rentstmaartenvillas.com.

Villas in Paradise is your one-stop source for great St. Maarten Villa Accommodations.
See many choices at www.villasinparadise.com or call Marilyn Pulito directly at 508-533-1388.

Emerald Cove Villas provides a one-of-a-kind vacation experience in Oyster Pond. See their website at www.emeraldcovevillas.com . Learn why *Emerald Cove* is the name.

Caribbean Days provides luxury villa accommodations throughout the Caribbean. See www.caribbeandays.com .

Villa Journeys offers JMB readers villa accommodations (and much more) not only throughout the Caribbean, but across the USA and in Europe.
See www.villajourneys.com

Oyster Bay View Villa, overlooking Oyster Pond and Captain Oliver's Marina, delivers great accommodations near Dawn Beach, a quick ride to Orient Beach and the dozens of fine restaurants at Grand Case. See their site at www.oysterbayview.com

Club Fantastico, www.clubfantastico.net, overlooking Orient Beach, gives you fine villa-like accommodations in a totally clothing optional

ambiance, inside and out. It's the perfect place for a *no tan lines* vacation.

Summit Resort Hotel, atop a cliff in Cupecoy, is a favorite. See why; check out www.thesummitresort.com

Shopping: (Updated 9/7/2013)

DK Gems on Front Street (*opposite and not far west of the historic Court House*) offers extraordinary eye-popping gems in a rainbow of exquisite settings. Not to be missed on your next trip. See www.dkgemsint.com .

Zhaveri Jewelers on Front Street opposite Little Switzerland (near the historic Courthouse) offers an incredible inventory of the finest gems in the Caribbean. Offering the island's largest selection of elegant jewelry for men, women, and kids. Visit www.zhaveri.com .

Fine Food, Pastries, Wines/Liquors, Yacht Provisioning:

Le Grand Marche has several Dutch Side locations to conveniently serve you -- at the roundabout near the Bush road, next to Port de Plaisance off the Union Road near the French border, or their *Gourmet Marche* store in Simpson Bay. For all the details see www.legrandmarche.net .

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Updated 12/17/13)

A. **About Low Airfares We Post On The "Secret Site" (New)**

Other travel sites post the lowest fares airlines offer. We only post the lowest fares that are readily available for purchase at the time of posting. That's a huge difference.

Our fares come from many, many sources, including our direct contacts at the airlines, wholesalers, consolidators, some specialized travel agencies, charter operators, certain other sites, and more. Whenever we find good fares, we try to buy tickets for a number of travel dates to ensure the fares are real. If fares can't be bought, we don't list them.

Check the "Low Fare Grid" on our members-only secret site for the lowest currently available fares to SXM from about our list of about 100 cities in the

USA and Canada plus London and Paris. When you see an emailed "low airfare bulletin" that alerts you to especially low fares, act quickly since those fares sell out fast.

We constantly revise low fare listings on our members-only "secret" site, so check the Grid often.

B. All the Answers for JMB Website Supporters: Just Click the Link

Atop every page on <http://www.everythingsxm.com> is a JMB Website Supporters link in an orange box. If you have any questions, click it; it takes you to our "secret site" where all our benefits are explained so you can take advantage of everything available to you as a JMB Website Supporters member.

Our Member Benefits "Welcome" letter on the secret site shows you all **a growing list of 200+** of our SXM-focused benefits.

C. Members: Why Check Airfares Daily?

Always check the Low Fare Grid on the Secret Site to see the latest low fares. Fares change often. Since most airlines have discontinued voucher-based credits when fares decline, it's critical that you get the lowest fares early: it's best to start looking 330 days ahead of flight time.

D. Members: Password Recovery Info

Members, please print this and save it:

If ever you need to recover a username or password, change your email address in our JMB Website Supporters member database, place an ad on our SXM condominiums for rent or sale page, or have any other membership-related question, please click the JMB Website Supporters orange login / change password medallion under the masthead at <http://www.everythingsxm.com>. Everything is there including our automated system for replacing forgotten passwords.

If you have any issue accessing the Secret Site, go here:

http://everythingxm.com/sxm/low_fares/secret-site-access-information.shtml

E. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads

Go to the home page of the Secret Site, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> (if you forgot your password, see previous story). Click the links on any page of the Secret Site to submit a new or revised ad or cancel an ad. Beyond that, for answers to many questions, you should also see our FAQ at <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret/rentalsqanda.htm>.

You can place up to 10 rental or sale ads within any 12-month period for timeshare condos you own in SXM or worldwide. Instructions are in the Discounts Master Index on the Secret Site. Ads are free for members and there is no commission. Ads are updated about every two weeks. Submissions are (usually) automatically acknowledged on receipt. To learn about when yours will be published, check the date of the most recent update at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml .

Ads are submitted to us online *only*. Full instructions are here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . Please follow them to the letter for best results. If you want to modify an existing ad, you must submit a full replacement ad, since to prevent errors, JMB *never* updates existing ads.

Not a member? Look:

More on JMB Website Supporters memberships:

Visit this site to check our membership benefits -- there are now about 200+ discounts with more coming:

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

To Reinstate a Former JMB Membership:

Reinstate your former membership to enjoy all 200+ benefits. See our Reinstatement Center at:

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

To Renew your current JMB membership:

See the Secret Site to renew your JMB membership at low multi-year rates. Just click the orange medallion below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com to sign in to the Secret Site, where you'll find the Membership Renewal Center. Also check the Member Benefits List / Welcome Letter ... many new benefits have been posted and still more are coming.

Please log in to the Secret Site for more; use the orange login medallion below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.

SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 12/17/13

Car Rentals:

Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental: www.tropical-tropicana.com -- reserve at reservations@tropical-tropicana.com

Unique Car Rental: www.uniquecarrentalsxm.com

JMB Website Supporters members get discounts at both Tropical and Unique. See the Secret Site for details.

On-Island Activities:

JMB Website Supporters get discounts at Aqua Mania through a special website for our members only. See the Secret Site for details.

Low Airfares:

Save hundreds on airfares and get many more travel benefits thru JMB Website Supporters. See

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml to learn more.

Restaurants:

Detailed descriptions of many restaurants are at <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/restaurants/index.shtml>

Emergency Medical Evacuation Jet Protection:

In case of critical illness or injury while traveling, emergency medical evacuation can cost you upwards of \$50,000 or more payable in cash in advance. "SkyMed" takes you home from the US, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, or the Caribbean. See www.skymed.com/jmbxsm . The cost is only \$59/month for the Ultimate plan (minimum service, two years); short term plans also available. We never travel without this life-saving protection.

Bookmark our SXM site and visit us often: www.everythingsxm.com

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsxm.com/secret , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com assuming your membership is in good standing.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 9/7/13)

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> 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 <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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

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