

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

[This
Week's
Stories](#)

[Airlines
& Weather
News](#)

[Lodging
News](#)

[Island
News](#)

[Everything
SXM
Home
Page](#)

[Members
SECRET
Website
Login](#)

[SXM Condo
Rentals &
Sales](#)

[Something
New Is Coming](#)

[Find us on
Facebook](#)

May
5,
2014

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

#942

Weekly SXM News and Comments

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2014. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

Part of www.everythingsxm.com

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

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:



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



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 #942 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:

- *Go Anywhere Jet Blue Flies With Our All-New Jet Blue Getaway Giveaway*
- *Southwest Air Plays Down Likelihood of Near-Term Service to SXM*
- *One Not So Great Review of Sapphire*
- *Club Orient, Many Others No Longer Accepting Travelers Checks*
- *Summer Vacation With The Kids: Where to Go, What to Do*

- *Summer Vacation Without The Kids*
- *Three Good Choices for Trying "Nood" Recreation in SXM*
- *Trying "Noodite" For The First Time in SXM*
- *Prescription for a Perfectly Painted Thursday*
- *Day Trips to St. Barths*
- *Day Trips to Anguilla*
- *Day Trips to Saba*
- *Looking Forward to Star Wars? Meet The Real Yoda Right Now -- He "Lives" in SXM*
- *Got a Spare \$50,000 in Cash? You May Need it on This Trip to SXM*

28 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://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, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingsexm.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 7/13/2014 7/20/2014 Week 28 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina One bedroom, sleeps 4, full kitchen, one bathroom on third floor of Beaumontia building, b318, with a great view. Overlooking Simpson Bay with view of incoming/outgoing yachts. Private pool area, laundry facilities in building. Short walk to beaches. Casino, piano bar, convenience store, supermarket and restaurants within walking distance. Great views from balcony. Great place to relax with many amenities on site \$1,050 rent for week Peter or Paula at 732-591-8396 hooch123@otponline.net

RENTAL 7/20/2014 12/20/2014 Week 30 - 50 Simpson Bay Resort - Formally the Marina Residences Ocean front Simpson Bay Marina residences. Rent the villa, the one bedroom, the junior suite together or separately. Amazing sunset from the deck. Fully equipped kitchen in Villa. The 1 bedroom sleeps 4, the junior suite sleeps 2. Close to shopping, restaurants and the casino. Wi-fi included. Email for photos. Located on the second floor, easy access to parking and elevators. Timeshare tax not included. May rent daily as well depending on availability. \$1700 Villa/\$1200 1 bedroom/\$950 junior suite Deb - 4432218984 debrapatrik46@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week (Now Two):

SALE 2/6/2015 2/13/2015 week 6 Diamond Royal Palm Two Bedroom Two bath sleeps 6 Livingroom, Dining room Kitchen One of the Island's best resorts. Spectacular sunset views from Living room and Master Bedroom 5th floor, Resort full of amenities, such as Restaurant, Pool with swim up bar, exercise facility, shopping, beach and more \$2,500 richard 6095042718 rful@comcast.net

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 (old format):

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

1. New Flight Giveaway: Go Anywhere Jet Blue Flies (See Section Three)
2. Southwest Air Plays Down Likelihood of Near-Term Service to SXM
3. 2014 Hurricane Names
4. TSA Precheck Continues Its National Expansion

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

5. One Not So Great Review of Sapphire
6. Remember To Enter Our Nine-Vacation Giveaway

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

7. Lead Story: Go Anywhere Jet Blue Flies With Our All-New Jet Blue Getaway Giveaway
8. Police Chase Ends at Simpson Bay Resort
9. Where To See Carnival Pictures
10. "Laugh 'Til Your Belly Bursts" Comedy Festival Is Coming
11. Our Thanks To You For Resubscribing to SXM Weekly News
12. An Editorial That You Would Only Read in SXM
13. Club Orient, Many Others No Longer Accepting Travelers Checks
14. Summer Vacation With The Kids: Where to Go, What to Do
15. Summer Vacation Without The Kids
16. Three Good Choices For Trying "Nood" Recreation in SXM
17. Our First Time at a "Nood" Beach in SXM
18. Rainy Day Idea: Tijon Parfumerie (Make Your Own)
19. Prescription for a Perfectly Painted Thursday
20. Day Trips to St. Barths
21. Day Trips to Anguilla
22. Day Trips to Saba
23. Looking Forward to Star Wars? Meet The Real Yoda Right Now -- He "Lives" in SXM
24. Steel Pan Music of the Week
25. Restaurant of the Week (Our weekly Pick)
- 26. Got a Spare \$50,000 in Cash? You May Need it on This Trip to SXM**
27. Reserve Your Free Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now
28. Caribbean Recipe of the Week: Take a Look

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. New Flight Giveaway: Go Anywhere Jet Blue Flies (See Section Three)

Jet Blue Airways enabled us to give away round-trip tickets to anywhere they fly -- and they fly farther than you think. See the lead story in Section 3 for all the info!

2. Southwest Air Plays Down Likelihood of Near-Term Service to SXM

There has been a lot of talk around SXM lately of Southwest moving into SXM, which is still highly likely. We spoke with a senior executive there recently and he told us flat out that no one should get their expectations up about any near-term arrivals on Southwest.

Our hunch remains exactly as it was, however; we still think they could arrive as soon as next year. Our guess is that departures could come from BWI. Long-term, that could set up an interesting dynamic against jetBlue (see lead story, next Section) since jetBlue is expanding big-time at Washington National (Reagan).

As always, we'll keep you posted.

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

3. 2014 Hurricane Names

Arthur
Bertha

Cristobal
Dolly
Edouard
Fay
Gonzalo
Hanna
Isaias
Josephine
Kyle
Laura
Marco
Nana
Omar
Paulette
Rene
Sally
Teddy
Vicky
Wilfred

Forecasters all say it will be a relatively quiet year but, of course, it only takes one storm to screw things up.

4. TSA Precheck Continues Its National Expansion

TSA Precheck enables you to be cleared well in advance of any travel so you get through security that much faster. It's international equivalent is Global Entry, which enables you to use Precheck in the US and walk right past the waiting lines when you return to the USA from overseas. It's worth every penny and it's expanding to more US airports. If you go to SXM, get Global Entry; see <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry>

Start now for travel in Fall and Winter. It takes a while and you'll need an in-person appointment.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. One Not So Great Review of Sapphire

We've reported several times in recent months that the majority of reports we're hearing from Sapphire Resort have been very positive, in all respects. We never said the resort is perfect -- it isn't -- but it has been improving.

Not everyone is happy with the current state of affairs there. We bring you the following story from Ralph S. It happened on a big Carnival holiday, when many Sapphire employees apparently took off to celebrate (condensed):

"We are very disgusted with Sapphire Resort. Last year they told us they were going to redo everything. Well, guess what: No changes have been made in our unit. To name just a few things that I confronted: our shower does not work; our toilet runs constantly and overflowed today (Wed.) flooding the entire first floor, in spite of my calling the front desk 3 times, with someone coming three hours later, with the excuse that today is a holiday (carnival parade); two light bulbs in the hallway were burned out; the coffee pot doesn't work; the dishwasher is so rusted out that we can't use it; we have no wine glasses in our kitchenware, and they never came back to take care of all the overflow of water on the downstairs floor.

I put towels on the floor so that we wouldn't fall on the slippery tile floor. This has been the most stressful vacation we have had and will probably not return. I just wanted to let you know about what a terrible place this is getting to be and I am hoping you will write this up in you newsletter."

Tell us: If you visit any SXM timesharing resorts, let us know what you think. You can email us at [jmbweb\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb[at]jmbcommunications.com). Sorry, JMB Website Supporters members only.

6. Remember To Enter Our Nine-Vacation Giveaway

You can do so on our site www.everythingsxm.com. No purchase necessary. Everyone is entitled to enter once per email address, but JMB Website Supporters members can enter 10 times per email address. They also get 200+ discounts on SXM and they help us publish SXM Weekly News so it comes to you every week. Join us; see www.everythingsxm.com for more info.

SECTION 3: Island

Would You, Right Now, Do A High-Wire Act Without a Net? If You Travel Without SkyMed, That's Exactly What You're Doing.

Get critically ill or injured when you travel, and a medical evacuation jet home can cost you upwards of \$45,000+ -- payable in cash in advance. No \$45,000, no jet home. SkyMed Takes You Home -- what else matters?

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. Or go online to www.skymed.com/jmbsexm. If you call SkyMed and speak to 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).

7. Lead Story: Go Anywhere Jet Blue Flies With Our All-New Jet Blue Getaway Giveaway

We'll be giving away two round-trip tickets from any JetBlue city to any other JetBlue city courtesy of [Jet Blue Airways](http://JetBlueAirways.com) and Everythingsxm.com. Jet Blue flies all over the USA, all over the Caribbean, as far north as Anchorage and as far south as Lima Peru. To enter, visit www.everythingsxm.com and enter our "Thanks Four Million" nine-vacation giveaway. We'll also give away our "Go Away Anywhere" prize on Jet Blue.

No purchase necessary. One entry per email address unless you are a JMB Website Supporters member -- JMB members can enter 10 times per email address. (Membership also gives you 200+ discounts across SXM with more coming). You can join JMB Website Supporters using the link above.

Nine vacations (the Grand Prize winner gets free airfare too) PLUS our new Go Away Anywhere trip for two to any Jet Blue City... Go enter now... And join JMB Website Supporters for even more chances to win. Tell your friends -- they can get SXM Weekly News free at www.everythingsxm.com.

8. Police Chase Ends at Simpson Bay Resort

We're not sure what precipitated the chase, but it ended at Simpson Bay Resort this past week when police fired on suspects inside a Hyundai rental car. Details: <http://www.sxmislandtime.com/component/k2/28240-police-shoot-at-suspects-during-chase.html>

9. Where To See Carnival Pictures

The St. Maarten Carnival -- the biggest on the island -- reached its zenith this week with the Carnival Parade. Photographer Sarina Gito posted many pictures which will give you the flavor of the Carnival: <https://www.facebook.com/Sarina.Gito.Photography.and.Retouching>

10. "Laugh 'Til Your Belly Bursts" Comedy Festival Is Coming

Well-known comedian Eddie Griffin headlines the island's Comedy Festival in June, "Laugh 'Til Belly Burst." See www.ltbbxm.com for details.

The festival runs three days. Eddie appears June 26 in an R rated performance (\$60 in advance), and the fun continues with Caribbean comedy on June 27 and June 28, only \$30 in advance.

11. 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.

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

12. An Editorial That You Would Only Read in SXM

This is part of an editorial that appeared last week in the *SXM Daily Herald*:

"NA [National Alliance, one of SXM's many political parties] parliamentarian Louie Laveist has a point (see Monday paper). One hardly can deny that talk about establishing a Gaming Control Board (GCB) has been going on for what seems ages, since long before country status was achieved effective 10-10-10.

"It's also no secret that some casino bosses have been major contributors to several political parties, including the two of which he himself has been a part up to now. As far as known only one local party ever flatly refused such an offer and it no longer exists, at least not on its own.

"So, when stating that 'cocks will grow teeth' before the related law is passed, the opposition member obviously was speaking from personal experience. Nevertheless, he is on target with his remark that it's taking much too long...."

We don't know which is more interesting here, the comment from Louie Laveist that "cocks will grow teeth" or the paper's comment that Laveist was "obviously speaking from personal experience." (We do not want to know how the paper knows that.)

Just so everyone is totally clear, "cocks" in St. Maarten are chickens.

13. Club Orient, Many Others No Longer Accepting Travelers Checks

As we reported a few months ago, some of the top SXM merchant banks processing credit cards have started refusing Travelers Checks. Consequently, many restaurants and other businesses across the island also are not accepting travelers checks.

Many people are using Scotia Bank ATMs, probably because Scotia Bank has an agreement with Bank of America under which you can use your BofA Debit Card to withdraw cash at any Scotia Bank ATMs without paying any fees.

14. Summer Vacation With The Kids: Where to Go, What to Do

It can be hot during the Summer and sometimes showery, particularly later during Summer.

Lots of choices for stuff to do with kids.

First: the Butterfly Farm, best early in the day when it opens. Endlessly fascinating. Wear bright clothing and they might just land on you and relax a bit. (The Farm, gives discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; log in to the Secret Site to download the vouchers. Bring your JMB Membership Card.)

Second: the Carousel in Simpson Bay, which not only has the island's only Carousel -- it's also the island's biggest ice cream parlor.

Third: Busby's at Dawn Beach. Lots of food for everybody, plus Dawn Beach where they can build sand castles, and you can get beer in buckets.

Fourth: See story 23 about Star Wars' Yoda, who's alive and well in SXM.

Fifth: Lunch at Trattoria Pizza Pasta is a great idea -- delicious Italian food in a relaxed atmosphere. Great pizza, too.

and Sixth: At night take them for an early dinner to IZI -- they'll be mighty impressed if it's their birthday....

15. Summer Vacation *Without* The Kids

Actually, some of the things we suggested to do with kids are just as much fun without them -- like *all* of the things in the prior article, story 14.

Of course, there are other romantic things to do here. Like exploring Pic Paradis on the French Side ... you might enjoy a zipline trip at Loterie Farm. Or you can try naturism at any of the beaches in the next article. Guys concerned about their first experience should read about Jeff's in article 17....

16. Three Good Choices For Trying "Nood" Recreation in SXM

First, we use the term "nood" since you know what it means and we don't want spam filters to think we are anything other than a St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter, in which case they might try to snag us.

Here are our three top choices, all of which you'll find on island maps::

Cupecoy Beach, Dutch Side not far from the airport, vies for the "most beautiful beach in SXM" title with Happy Bay, but it's most gorgeous later in the afternoon, when the golden sun interacts with its sandstone cliffs to display some truly amazing colors. Cupecoy is across from Blue Mall. You can park next to Ocean Club or near Shore Pointe and walk to the beaches. There are two...one in front of Shore Pointe, and the other a bit farther east. John and Dany rent chairs and offer food and drink. At "baby" beach, there is sand in the rocks on the western side which can be mixed with

water – create your own mud bath. Beach size varies with weather.

Happy Bay Beach, north of Marigot on the French Side, is that quintessential palm-fringed tropical beach, where another Danny and John offer help. It's usually very quiet – a couple of dozen people is a really busy day.

Club Orient at Orient Beach, a few hundred yards long at the beach's southern end, is the island's official "nood" beach. Club Orient is the largest of the island's two naturist resorts and is the only one on the beach. Club O is almost always busy. When a "nood" cruise hits town, thousands of people will be here; otherwise it's hundreds. Club O has the Papagayo Restaurant where you can be served "nood" – and the always busy Perch Bar. During the winter we saw numbers of first-time couples trying naturism here. Heads up: don't forget sunscreen.

See next article for Jeff's first-time experience.

17. Our First Time at a "Nood" Beach in SXM

The unabridged version of this article is on our website: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/beaches/tryingnaturism.shtml>

We were on vacation in St. Maarten and we had taken a one-day catamaran excursion to nearby St. Barths with a couple we had met on our flight from Boston. It was the late 1970s, when the now well-developed St. Jean beach in St. Barths (long referred to in Jimmy Buffett's *Autour du Rocher*; see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xNk38LOVQI&feature=kp>) was still undeveloped, natural, and relaxing. (Now, restaurants there charge \$10+ for bottled water.)

None of us had any experience with social "noodite". On this trip – our first St. Maarten vacation – for the first time we had noticed toplessness on some beaches but no "noodite".

We were two entirely normal, married heterosexual couples. St. Jean beach had a sign which read, "Nudisme Interdit" – French for keep your clothes on. While three of us sunbathed, the other guy strolled the beach. He quietly said to me afterwards, "I'd always regret it if I didn't tell you that there are two girls about 24 years old sunbathing "nood" about 30 yards down the beach right after from bushes." I didn't know that; we were separated by lots of bushes.

I shortly walked down the beach and thought to myself, "Why don't we do that?" It looked comfortable and fun.

We never broached the thought to the other couple; it seemed pretty clear that they were more conservative than we were. But my wife agreed that the next morning for the first time we'd try Orient Beach in St. Maarten, shown as "le beach naturiste" on a then-current St Martin road map.

[Point of information: St. Maarten / St. Martin is half Dutch and half French – two countries and two cultures on one island, hence the different spelling. Orient Beach is on French "St. Martin."]

A Changed Place

Most couples I've talked to since our "first time" experience either grew up in families that practiced nudism, or were just curious, like we were.

Orient at that time was far different than today. Visit Orient now, and you find the expansive Club Orient naturist resort at the southern end, perhaps the most flat-out enjoyable naturist resort in the Caribbean. Although "noodite" is normal throughout Club Orient (including at the popular Papagayo restaurant), it's no longer practiced on the rest of the beach, thanks to "Nudity Prohibited" signs now posted by the French government. Pity, certainly, since hundreds of naturists once walked the entire beach with no hassle at all.

In 1979, there was nothing but a small drink cart on the beach – no buildings at all – and most of the people who visited "Pedro's" walked there via a well-worn path from the Le Galion Beach Hotel, a clothed resort on nearby Embouchure Beach (also known as Coconut Grove or Le Galion Beach) on the island's Northeast shore. Le Galion was later destroyed by a hurricane, but its concrete shell stands and little concessions are today housed inside.

Method to his Madness

We strolled onto the beach, bought a couple of drinks, and spread out our blanket. The beach was (and is) huge, a mile or so long. That morning, it had perhaps 50 people on it, most of them at the Southern end near Le Galion, and the crowd grew only slightly as the day wore on. (Today crowds on the entire beach during an average day can total a few thousand).

My wife went topless, laid on her stomach and buried her face in a book.

Like most guys, I was a bit uneasy – concerned that, at some point, my happiness at being there might become physically apparent. After all, I was only human. So I decided it would be “mind over matter.”

I had a *plan*. I stripped naked immediately, laid on my back, shut my eyes tightly, and left them shut for what seemed like half an hour. Although I heard other people settle nearby and walk past, my eyes stayed shut.

It wasn't easy. Among other things, Orient was and is a beautiful beach. Coral reefs block the big waves that would otherwise wash onto this windward side of the beach, and there's an excellent view of small offshore islands and the backdrop of some of the island's tallest mountains. A close walk away are estuaries with egrets and other waterfowl. And there are shells to collect. And of course, there were "nood" sunbathers

So far, so good. The plan was working. The sun and the constant breezes felt wonderful.

Finally I allowed my eyes to open but only to follow the clouds as they danced across the sky, and watch the few birds.

“Do you want to go in the water?” my wife asked, breaking my concentration. We did, and I loved the experience. I stayed in after she went back to the blanket, and I shortly followed her there.

I'm a long-time beach walker and I shortly decided it was time. My first walk was short, only about 50 yards or so, and nothing uneventful happened. I was really enjoying the feel of the sun, the breezes, and the water, and so far so good “otherwise” – if you get my drift.

After a short respite on the blanket, I decided on a long walk.

Is This A Test?

I was perhaps 100 yards from the blanket walking North into the less occupied part of the beach when I noticed four women walking South, toward me. As they became discernible, it was obvious one was wearing only a man's shirt, totally unbuttoned and tied at the bottom, and the others were wearing nothing. I thought to myself, “Is this some kind of test?”

We traded smiles and after we had passed, I took a deep breath. “Mind over matter” had worked – so far.

Soon I came upon some gorgeous driftwood and a pile of conch (pronounced CONK) shells, so I picked up two of the bigger shells and a piece of driftwood and took them along.

On the way back, I noticed a few more young ("nood") women sitting near the dunes about 30 yards from the water's edge. All three of them got up and headed toward me. Having been writing since I was nine years old, I conjured up the image of Woody Allen, and the myriad of psychobabblistic thoughts that would go through his mind in such a situation.

"Hey," one said (again breaking my concentration), "where did you get the shells?" I thought to myself, "Don't faint." I answered them, and they said "Do you mind if we look at them?" And down they looked. . . .

Confessions of a Naturist

Needless to say that day was successful and my worries didn't . . . materialize.

For some guys, of course, they do. Manifestations of male happiness do occur and some guys who experience them strut around like peacocks (no pun intended) but as you likely know, it's not generally considered polite to do so. Proper etiquette suggests they simply lay on their stomachs until the excitement subsides.

My wife and I both got mildly sunburned that day so remember to use suntan lotion if/when you take the plunge. Today, wearing a bathing suit at beaches seems as illogical to me as wearing a tuxedo in a shower. "If God intended us to be "nood", we'd have been born that way," reads a t-shirt I bought years ago at Lupin Naturist Resort in California.

Nudism – on a beach or at a resort – is thoroughly enjoyable. People aren't as guarded at "nood" beaches and nudist resorts as they are elsewhere, so it's likely you'll wind up in a pleasant conversation with someone.

But the greatest enjoyment comes from the fact that it feels perfect – absolutely the second most sensual kind of experience you can have with your clothes off, in my humble opinion. In an era of immense tension, it's one of few truly effective ways to totally relax. And that's something we can all use
....

18. Rainy Day Idea: Tijon Parfumerie (Make Your Own)

Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case opposite Spiga Restaurant is the island's only operating parfumerie, operated by a couple from San Diego . Go: you can arrange a class to create your own perfume / cologne (men and women). More: www.tijon.com.

19. Prescription for a Perfectly Painted Thursday

Watching plein air Caribbean impressionist Sir Roland Richardson – who is one of the most friendly, articulate human beings you will ever have the good fortune to meet – paint in oils as you watch is one of the most enriching activities you could ever hope for in SXM. His gallery is on Rue de la Republique in Marigot and it is an absolute feast for your eyes. No other painter we've ever seen captures color with such remarkable radiance. See www.rolandrichardson.com and make it a point to go; regardless of your level of art appreciation it will be an experience you will long remember. Check the gardens while you're there. Great pleasure....

20. Day Trips to St. Barths

St. Barths -- site of Jimmy Buffett's Autour du Rocher (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xNk38LOVQI&feature=kp>, which we mentioned earlier this week) -- is where the rich and famous hang out. It is pricey but a great place to visit and tour (especially the airport). Many boats go there from SXM including a fast one from Oyster Pond....

21. Day Trips to Anguilla

The small ferry from Marigot Harbor is fast and cheap (bring your passport). Go, rent a car, and explore. Beautiful beaches including Shoal Bay, fine restaurants, just a gorgeous easy visit. The ferry takes only about 15-20 minutes across.

22. Day Trips to Saba

We do not recommend the boat trip on the "Edge" to Saba. The trip over is easy; the trip back, against a current which can be quite rough, may well require extensive use of barf bags. Unless you are an experienced sailor this is not for you. (The Edge is fine -- we just don't recommend this trip to anyone who has ever had a seasickness issue.)

Saba is different from any nearby island. Fly over from Princes Juliana and take your camera. Saba airport is quite remarkable and so is the island. This is a great place for divers. JMB members: see discounts for Scout's Place in Saba on our Secret Website.

23. Looking Forward to Star Wars? Meet The Real Yoda Right Now -- He "Lives" in SXM

The Yoda Guy created Yoda for Star Wars and is right there -- with an awesome Yoda Guy Movie Exhibit. If you're a Star Wars fan this is an absolute must; Just do it:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Yoda-Guy-Movie-Exhibit/295303327163046>

24. 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:

5/5/14: Banana Wind by Jimmy Buffett: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY4MSnK5MD0> (Not Jimmy, but this may inspire you)

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.)

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

Papagayo -- the restaurant at Club Orient -- has great food. The whole menu is far from what you might expect at a beach bar. If you don't mind noodlists at the next table -- go. We love their burgers (easy candidate for best on the island) but there are tons of choices. Just do it....

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 5/5/14)

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.vesnataaverna.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.

26. 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/jmbsxm. 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_sxm/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.

27. 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

28. 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.caribexseafoods.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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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/jmbsexm . 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)

This section returns next week.

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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com.

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

This section returns next week.

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2014. 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* 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.

To see the JMB Communications privacy policy, visit http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

5/5/14 #942 5/3/14 600A_EDT Group A 7989

| [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2014. World rights reserved.