

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

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

#943

Weekly SXM News and Comments

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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)

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TOP STORIES

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

This is issue #943 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:

- *Stormy Weather Likely Now (Friday 5/8) Into Monday*
- *All-New Baker's Suites Offering Special Rates As Low As \$79/Night*
- *Continuing to Monitor Takeovers of St. Maarten Timeshare Resorts*
- *RBC ATMs Fall Victim to Skimming*
- *"Significant Drop" in Chikungunya Cases; No Epidemic*
- *Traveling About SXM, Bring Your Passport*

23 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: 7/20/2014 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 - 443-221-8984 debrapatrik46@gmail.com

RENTAL: Now Through 10/31/14 Summit Resort Hotel - Exceptional cliff-top water-view unit at Summit Resort Hotel offers breathtaking views of the northern lagoon, lowlands, Marigot, even Creole Rock and Anguilla from a central convenient location in Cupecoy. Breezy recently renovated unit has a king size bed, stove, toaster-oven, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, new HD cable TV, free wired and wireless internet, sofa-bed, privacy and serenity. Gated resort has a restaurant and friendly bar on the pool deck with phenomenal lagoon views and beautifully landscaped grounds. Many beaches (Cupecoy [clothing optional], Mullet Bay, Baie Longue, Rouge, Maho, Simpson Bay) and restaurants are nearby including Temptation, FIG, La Gondola, and many others. Only \$850 for any week through 10/31. [Unit 4B is also offered for sale for both weeks 4 and 5, prime winter weeks.] Photos available. Jeff, 508-747-8281 or jeff@jmbcommunications.com.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week (Now Two):

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

SALE 7/13/2014 7/20/2014 Week 28 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Beaumontia, B312. One master bedroom sleeps 4 total, one bath. 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. Fees has been paid for renovation & yearly maintenance. \$5,000 or B.O. for the week Peter or Paula at 732-591-8396 hooch123@otponline.net

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. Stormy Weather Likely Now (Friday 5/8) Into Monday
2. Jet Blue Increasing Caribbean Service
3. Airport Starts Construction of Private Jet Facility

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

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7. Funeral Home Apparently Sent Wrong Bodies Back To North America
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18. Caribbean Recipe of the Week
19. Steel Pan Music Of The Week
20. A Trip on the SXM Party Bus
21. Thank You for Re-Subscribing...
22. Reserve Your Free Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now
23. Got a Spare \$50,000 [in Cash](#)? You May Need it on [This Trip](#) to SXM

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. Stormy Weather Likely Now (Friday 5/9) Into Monday

SXM Weekly News starts mailing Friday evenings. This note is especially for those who receive it on Friday or Saturday morning.

The Weather is likely to be a bit iffy from Friday 5/9 through Sunday, due to a large storm brewing off Puerto Rico that is expected to track slowly northwestward toward the Bahamas. The storm, which is non-tropical, was expected to bring lots of rain to Puerto Rico, Hispanola, and the Virgin Islands, meteorologist Rob Lightbown of crownweather.com said. He noted that SXM would get 4-7 foot seas, possibly frequent showers, and the possibility of thunderstorms starting yesterday (Thursday 5/8) and extending possibly through Monday, the cover date of this newsletter.

See satellite images here: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/weather/index.shtml>

Much more on tropical weather is here: <http://crownweather.com/index.php/tropical/atlantic-tropical-weather-page/>

2. Jet Blue Increasing Caribbean Service

Its newest flights to the Caribbean are to Costa Rica and St. Lucia -- nonstops from Boston. It already had increased its nonstops from Boston to SXM to two every Saturday in season, as it does from JFK.

Jet Blue has consistently added to its SXM offerings, which will increase further.

More to come.... As always, we'll keep you posted.

Also check our favorite travel site when making your reservations: www.flytravelgo.com. It's simple and remarkably easy to use.

3. Airport Starts Construction of Private Jet Facility

Princess Juliana Airport for several years has been unable to accommodate all the private jets that want to park there; it hasn't enough room beyond the dozens that can be accommodated, including the largest 757s and 767s.

Now it's starting to build the FBO (Fixed Base Operations) facility we reported on here previously. It's designed to provide the level of service that private jet users need and to increase parking space for the aircraft. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/kusl72m>

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

4. Continuing to Monitor Takeovers of St. Maarten Timeshare Resorts

We've been reporting on St. Maarten timeshare resorts ever since *SXM Weekly News* started publishing as a monthly back in 1993. It's never easy since most resorts operate under a cloak of secrecy and don't announce anything until they're ready. Nothing wrong with that, though it does make a reporter's job challenging.

Today we have senior level contacts at virtually every timeshare on SXM. As promised, we *will* keep you posted.

"I started out after journalism school at the Providence *Journal-Bulletin* company," Jeff routinely tells anyone who asks. "I moved over to WPRO AM-FM-TV in Providence as a reporter on all three stations, covering general assignments on TV and working as a police reporter on radio. I was also a newspaper columnist for many years and have done thousands of interviews for personality features for various clients. I know what to ask, where to ask it, and whom to ask, and I know when to ask the same question several times when someone evades answering. I don't tend to leave an interview without the story I came for."

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. We do not use your full name in our stories.

5. All-New Baker's Suites Offering Special Rates As Low As \$79/Night

Baker's Suites is SXM's newest all-suites boutique hotel, offering lots of advantages as the calendar slides into low season. It's minutes from the airport...has free high-speed internet...on-site car rental ... it's surrounded by excellent restaurants ... grocery stores are nearby ... plenty of nightlife ... nearby casinos ... beach bars. Low off-season rates are as low as \$79/night plus taxes.

Come, relax, and unwind.

See www.bakerssuites.com and/or email [reservations\(at\)bakerssuites.com](mailto:reservations(at)bakerssuites.com). You can also phone 721-544-0095. Tell them Jeff Berger sent you. Jeff's JMB Website Supporters members always get the lowest rates; have your JMB Membership Card handy when you call. Learn more about membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

SECTION 3: Island

Get It All:

- 1. Low Airfares.**
- 2. Free ads to rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere.**
- 3. Meaningful discounts at dozens of restaurants across the island.**
- 4. Discounts on all kinds of shopping and on dozens and dozens of**

activities across the island.

5. Jewelry gift cards you can use like cash.

6. 200+ total discounts and other benefits and still more are coming in June, before the busy Summer travel season.

All for JMB Website Supporters members exclusively:

New Memberships are only one year for \$59; two years, \$75; three years, \$89; and four years, \$99. Join here:
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml

Low Rates for Reinstating former memberships: See <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Low Rates for Membership Renewals are in the Membership Renewal Center in the Secret Website:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret>

(Members: direct questions to support@jmbcommunications.com**)**

6. RBC ATMs Fall Victim to Skimming

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) ATMs in SXM reportedly fell prey to skimmers last week. When multiple customers conducted transactions at the RBC ATM at Le Grand Marche, they later found money was removed from their account without their knowledge or permission. RBC says it is investigating and will make good for their accountholders.

This isn't the first time this has happened in SXM. Windward Islands Bank (WIB) was victimized in the past, for which some Russians later went to the slammer. We do believe the ATMs were all *not* co-located at banks – but we're not sure.

7. Funeral Home Apparently Sent Wrong Bodies Back To North America

Two elderly female tourists, one from Canada and one from the US, passed away from natural causes several months ago, and their bodies were processed through the same funeral home. During shipment back to the US and Canada, the bodies were mixed up and each wound up at the other's destination.

A government investigation alleges that the funeral home was likely responsible. One of the bodies was cremated before it was discovered to be the wrong one. Several months ago, the funeral home was said to have apologized.

We do not know if the families have any further plans. More: <http://bit.ly/1fS5MPj>

8. "Significant Drop" in Chikungunya Cases; No Epidemic

Thanks to twice-weekly mosquito fogging and dry weather, the mosquito population particularly on the French Side, where Chikungunya was worse than on the Dutch, has dropped precipitously as has the incidence of Chikungunya. All the more reason to visit SXM...

9. Last Week's Police Chase Sought Suspects in Numerous Break-ins

We told you last week about a police chase that ended on the streets through Simpson Bay Resort, where some suspects were wounded and captured and others escaped. It was later reported that they were wanted for a number of break-ins that occurred during the just-ended St. Maarten carnival.

10. Traveling About SXM, Bring Your Passport (or a quality color photocopy)

We've heard from a few tourists who were pulled over and checked out by French Gendarmes who specifically asked for passports. Gendarmes always check seat belt use, driving under the influence, and using cell phones when driving, all of which can result in very stiff fines. Now... be sure to carry your passport or, at the very least, quality color photocopies of it when traveling on the island. Photocopies aren't legal passports but they may help in the interim, especially if the gendarmes find you not in violation of anything.

11. Simpson Bay Residents Not Happy About Development Plans

See what you think about Simpson Bay Development Plans. Visit www.sintmaartengov.org. Under the Government tag, select Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure. There, from the left panel, pick About Zoning/Development Plans' then click Simpson Bay on the interactive map.

We don't know what will happen but there seems to be significant vocal objection to the plans from some Simpson Bay residents.

We'll let you know what happens. If you live on SXM or own a full-share condo there, tell us what you think (JMB members only); email us at jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com.

12. Elisa Cohen of Bikini Beach Partners With Pierre Ferland (Pineapple Pete) at Sushiito, Port de Plaisance

Elisa Cohen, who for more than 20 years operated by highly successful Bikini Beach bar on Orient beach, has moved on to a very exciting new project with Pierre Ferland, the Pete of Pineapple Pete restaurant in Simpson Bay and Sushiito at Princess port de Plaisance. Elisa will now be in charge of Sushiito Japanese restaurant; she invites all her friends and long-time customers to visit there.

We did a review of Sushiito last winter and reported that we love the quality of the food and also the price, which was surprisingly low for St. Maarten. That should not have been a surprise, since all of Pete's restaurants deliver a lot of excellent food at very reasonable prices. Check it out and greet Elisa at her new place....

13. Day Trips to Pinel Island

Pinel is a small island off the far northeastern end of St. Maarten. Blessed with a beautiful beach, it is a favorite Sunday afternoon destination for local families, as well as a frequent destination all week long for tourists. There are no bridges or causeways to Pinel; it's accessible only by small ferries that are essentially oversized, open motorboats. The good news is that the trip is quick and cheap. There are facilities on the beach where you can relax, have lunch, drinks, or snacks, and rent chairs and umbrellas.

You can catch the ferry to Pinel from the ferry dock in Anse Marcel. Pinel is not clothing optional, but you can trek to more remote parts of the island and bake all you want -- or just go to Club Orient at the southern end of Orient Beach. (We covered clothing optional beaches in SXM last week. See our archives addresses, above, for past issues.)

14. Day Trips to Prickly Pear

Located northwest of St. Maarten just beyond Anguilla, Prickly Pear is a pair of small islands which are the destination of day cruises from St. Maarten. Although the trip over can be a bit bumpy, it's well worth it: the island is beautiful, uninhabited, and purely tropical. If you've never done Prickly Pear, definitely add it to your list for future trips; you'll love it. Definitely bring your camera. Some excursions here are clothing optional; ask when booking.

15. Day Trips to Tintamarre

Just a few years after *St. Maarten Weekly News* was first published 21 years ago, we first visited Tintamarre, a deserted island about 2 miles off the northeast coast not far from Orient beach (beyond Green Key). We published the story that German submarine crews relaxed here, so the legend goes, occasionally during World War II, and there was a short runway on the island that was active in the 1900s.

Today, Tintamarre is a much sought after place by day-cruise captains who bring dozens of passengers here. The island is great for some mild hiking, has beautiful crystal-clear waters, and is clothing optional.

Our favorite way to get here is on Capt. Neil Roebert's Celine catamaran. Neil provides a quick breakfast, a lavish and delicious freshly cooked lunch, desserts, snacks, and a bar on board on his weekly Friday fun cruises and he also does charters. See www.sailstmaarten.com. Neil also provides discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Website for details, www.everythingsxm.com/secret. Info on JMB membership is here: http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

16. Tim Stelma's Third SXM Novel Debuts: "Sandy Ground"

Author Tim Stelma has just released the third in his series of novels about St. Maarten, this one called Sandy Ground. He previously wrote books titled Cole Bay and Happy Bay. We're reading Sandy Ground now, and will review it for you in a forthcoming issue of this newsletter. All of his novels are available on Amazon; his pen name is simply T. Stelma.

17. Restaurant of the Week

Located adjacent to Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, Island Pizza offers some of the finest authentic Italian thin crust pizza you'll find anywhere. There's a wide variety of pies on the menu, or create your own from their long list of fresh, delicious toppings.

One of the things we like to do at island pizza is add their own hot sauce, which makes things even more delicious.

Dining at this location is always pleasurable, since you're cooled by prevailing tradewinds fresh off the ocean as you dine under the palms daytimes at Busby's or in the evening when the restaurant is known as Daniel's by the Sea. Remember that Daniel's and Busby's both give discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members; see our members only secret site for information about membership, which currently offers about 200 discounts across the island for things you do every day.

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> (featured 5/12/14)

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.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.

18. Caribbean Recipe of the Week

Our newest recipe -- for a Side Dish -- appears first in the Side Dish section. 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

Side Dishes:

Caribbean Rice and Beans: <http://tinyurl.com/mutk2n4>

Desserts:

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

19. 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:

5/12/14: Rhythm Trail Steel Pan Music (brief, Hot, Hot, Hot): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5Cg3J8q9i8>

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.)

20. A Trip on the SXM Party Bus

The St. Maarten Party Bus, popularly known simply as Da Party Bus, is about the wackiest and most fun thing you can do in or out of a bus in SXM.

After a staid life as a school bus in the US, this bus was reoutfitted and repainted with Caribbean colors and to its rear end was added a Creole house (take a look).

And that's not even the fun part. Let's just say what happens on Da Party Bus stays on Da Party Bus.

It is rapidly becoming one of the favorite day trips for cruise ship passengers and one of the busiest nighttime excursions for both locals and tourists.

The itinerary is filled with end-to-end fun: <http://www.thestmaartenpartybus.com/what-we-do.html>.

We've recommended it for years. If you haven't tried it yet, do reserve now for your next trip. Tell them we sent you. The Party Bus gives discounts to JMB members; see the Secret Website for details.

21. Thank You For Re-Subscribing

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*:

22. Reserve Your Free 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

23. 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/jmbxm. 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://everythingxm.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.

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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.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-stmaartentravelsspecialists.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.emeraldcohevillas.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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml to learn more.

Restaurants:

Detailed descriptions of many restaurants are at <http://everythingsexm.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/jmbsexm . 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://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?>

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