

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

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

#946

Weekly SXM News and Comments

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



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Attention iPad and Smart Phone Users

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

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

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

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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 #946 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:

- *Hurricane Season Begins: Where To Learn What's Happening*
- *Want a Free 2015 Roundtrip Flight to SXM?*
- *Lagoon Authority Surveying Traffic Bottlenecks: Objective, Alleviation*
- *For Simpson Bay Development Plans, More and More Questions*
- *Celebrate Jeff's "39th" Birthday With \$39 New Memberships - 200 Discounts for One Full Year, \$39 (Ends Friday)*
- *For \$49/month, Permanent SkyMed Medical Evacuation Memberships Are Now Yours (It's Time You Bought)*
- *Billfish Tournament Starts This Week; Orange Grove Band to Play on June 14*

- **How You Can Help Local Children Visit The St. Maarten Park / Zoo**
- **Nature Foundation Decries Turning "Green" Areas into Development Zones**
- **Comedy Festival Coming Later This Month**
- **How To Get \$300 or \$400 From Jeff / JMB Communications**

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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week (Two):

RENTAL 02/13/2015 02/20/2015 Week 7 Diamond Royal Palm Beach Resort Beautiful two bedroom/two bath timeshare resort sleeps six in this unit located on third floor, room 8302 overlooking the beautiful waters of the Caribbean. The master bedroom has a king bed and sliding door to the veranda overlooking the beach. The second bedroom has a king bed and there is a queen sleeper in living room. Resort has its own beach and pool with swim-up bar and restaurant, mini-market, shops, complementary fully equipped gym, free internet, . Restaurants, entertainment and shops within 1 to 3 blocks walking distance. Enjoy the open-air living room, dining room and fully equipped kitchen. This is President's week and this unit will rent fast. \$2,000.00 Jeannie 610-888-6106 jdisante@gmail.com

RENTAL: Any Week 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. Reduced to only \$750 for any week through 10/31. [Unit 4B is also offered for sale for both weeks 4 and 5, prime winter weeks.] Photos available. Susan, 508-747-8281 or susan@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 2/21/2015 3/14/2015 Week 8, 9 & 10 Flamingo Beach Resort Studio apt., Oceanside, Sat. to Sat. Unit #7416, can sleep 4 with privacy pull out door & TV & pull out full couch. Full kitchen with expected full size refrig. microwave oven & stove, dishwasher; etc beach front-2 beaches & pool. Parking included. Recently refurbished \$5,000. per week Laina (401) 934-2999 until May15th & then (401) 934-0550 armacdonald6@gmail.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

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

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

Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

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

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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. Hurricane Season Begins: Where To Learn What's Happening

Hurricane season began June 1 and already, there were signs of development in the Bay of Campeche this past week. Although the national hurricane Center and other forecasters predict a less busy than usual hurricane season, it only takes one storm to create havoc.

If you're on the island, pay attention to local forecasts, watches, and warnings. If you're home, click Weather on everythingStMaarten.com for satellite images as well as radar loops from throughout hurricane areas. For detailed forecasts and much more information, subscribed to the inexpensive and extremely valuable services of Crown Weather at www.crownweather.com.

In addition, we'll send bulletins to JMB Website Supporters members when watches or warnings for St. Maarten are issued, and we intend to publish relevant storm forecasts at www.Facebook.com/everythingStMaarten, our main page on Facebook.

2. Female-Named Hurricanes Cause More Deaths, Study Says

It appears to be true: the notion that female-named storms kill more people than male-named storms, as you probably heard this past week.

The reason appears to be that people take female named storms less seriously than male-named storms, the article says. The source was the renowned Washington Post: <http://wapo.st/1hTvSx4>

3. Where to Turn for the Latest on Storms Approaching SXM

In addition to the sources mentioned in article #1, you can also check the website of the meteorological department of St. Maarten: <http://www.meteosxm.com/>

2014 Atlantic season names:

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

4. Want a Free 2015 Roundtrip Flight to SXM?

We're giving away nine vacations to St. Maarten to celebrate us reaching 4 million visits to our website later this year. Our grand prize winners will receive many other prizes, not the least of which is round-trip flights for two via JetBlue from any JetBlue city to St. Maarten effective from February 2015 to February 2016. Enter now at www.everythingsxm.com. No purchase necessary.

5. Cheapest Caribbean Cruises Start Soon

If you're thinking about taking a cruise to the Caribbean, Summer is a very inexpensive time to do it. Demand is a bit less than during winter, and as the season drones on toward hurricane activity from mid July into October, prices go down even more. And, as we pointed out earlier, this is expected to be a slightly less active than usual hurricane season.

Of course, there's a drawback. If a hurricane is approaching a port on your ship's itinerary, the ship can divert. For example, we've heard of cruises destined for Bermuda from New York / NJ that diverted to Nova Scotia -- a bit different.

6. Fifty Years, 20 Million Cruise Passengers

The Port of St. Maarten is celebrating quite a milestone — 50 years in business during which it has served more than 20 million cruise passengers, the majority of them in recent years. They do a great job of getting people processed and onto the Island and are quite an asset to its economy and reputation.

See next article.

7. Millionth Cruise Passenger Recorded in Mid-May; Usually, It's a Month Later

Dutch St. Maarten recorded its millionth cruise passenger in mid-May this year, a full month ahead of usual. The quickly improving US economy has enabled more passengers to fill the many ships that come to the island every week, which officials say has been helpful to the island's economy.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

8. Princess Heights Honored by TripAdvisor Award; Fourth Consecutive Year

St. Maarten's top resorts are getting much deserved recognition from TripAdvisor, as we reported last week concerning both Summit Resort and Oyster Bay Beach Resort.

For the fourth consecutive year, Princess Heights, the luxury all suites resort perched high on a hill in Dawn beach has received the prestigious TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, signifying that it has received very high accolades from its customers.

General manager Emil Lee recognized the hard work of his staff at providing the best luxury accommodations along with outstanding service, two of many long-standing hallmarks of this popular and quite extraordinary hotel.

Oyster Bay Beach Resort, Summit Resort, and Princess Heights have all donated vacations to us which we will give away this fall in our Thanks Four Million celebration, along with six other vacations. You can enter that giveaway on our home page at www.everythingSXM.com.

Our congratulations to all these properties.

9. Baker's Suites Winter 2014-2015 Rates Posted: They're Still Reasonable

Baker's Suites, the totally new all-suites boutique hotel in Simpson Bay on pelican key, posted very attractive grand opening rates when it opened last winter.

This past week, Baker's Suites posted its rates for the summer as well as the shoulder season and next winter. The good news (it's all good news) is that their rates continue to be exceptionally reasonable even during high season. The rates are posted on their website, www.bakerssuites.com.

If you're looking for great summer vacation, Baker's suites is currently offering special rates as low as \$79 per night plus taxes; see next article.

10. For Summer, Baker's Suites Rates are As Low As \$79/Night

Baker's Suites is SXM's newest all-suites boutique hotel, offering lots of advantages. 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@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 ; remember Jeff's Birthday Sale on memberships ends Friday, June 13. Discounts may not be available on the \$79/night rate.

SECTION 3: Island

You Asked, We Responded: Jeff's Birthday Sale Ends This Friday, June 13:

(He's 39. Again.)

Only \$39 for a new membership for one full year.*
Only \$105 for five full years.

Get 200 Discounts & Travel Benefits at Extraordinary Pricing
Right Now. Ends Friday June 13.

What you get:

1. **Low Airfares.**
2. **Free Sunset cruises (subject to small fuel surcharge).**
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.**

Jeff's Birthday Sale New Memberships are only one year for \$39 (reg. \$59); three years, \$79 (re. \$89); and five years, \$105. Join here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml Sale Ends June 13.

Low Rates for Reinstating former memberships -- one year, \$39; four years, \$79; seven years, only \$99: See <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Jeff's Birthday Sale Membership Renewals are four years for \$69 or eight years for \$99: See the Membership Renewal Center in the Secret Website: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret>

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

**If you purchased a new one-year \$49 membership from us since 5/26 during our recent Memorial Day sale, we will refund the \$10 difference to you upon request. You must email [support\(at\)jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support(at)jmbcommunications.com) with the subject New Membership Refund and give us the details and you must email us from the email address you have registered with your JMB membership. All refunds will be made by PayPal, no exceptions. Applies only to \$49 purchases between May 26, 2014, and June 9, 2014. Not applicable to any other purchases.*

10a. Now You Can Get Permanent SkyMed MedEvac Protection for Only \$59, \$49, or \$35/month

Getting the peace-of-mind of SkyMed medical evacuation protection just got a whole lot easier and more convenient.

What SkyMed Is: SkyMed is a medical evacuation membership program that takes you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. SkyMed offers several major advantages:

- **Medically Qualify Only Once:** First, you need only medically qualify once for SkyMed Ultimate protection. As long as you continue to pay your small membership fee on time, your SkyMed Ultimate membership will continue regardless of what happens to your health. This also applies to

SkyMed annual memberships, but not to short-term memberships which require medical requalification.

- **No Disqualification As You Get Older:** Second, once you qualify for any continuous SkyMed membership (not short-term memberships) and become a member, you can't be disqualified for age, nor can you be assessed a higher membership fee simply because you are older. All members with equivalent memberships pay the same membership fee regardless of age. As long as you pay your renewal membership fee on time, coverage continues and is unaffected by your age.
- **Broad Family Coverage:** Third, family coverage enables you to protect you, your spouse / partner, and minor children living with you.
- **SkyMed Takes You Home:** Fourth, when you become critically ill or injured anywhere in the "SkyMed universe," SkyMed takes you home on an ICU equivalent, medically staffed, specially outfitted medical evacuation jet to doctors and hospitals you know and trust near home. The SkyMed universe is the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba*, Belize, and Costa Rica. Outside the SkyMed universe, when you buy the SkyMed Ultimate plan, SkyMed gets you to the nearest appropriate facility for recuperation or, where medically necessary, SkyMed repatriates you in a private, medically equipped, professionally staffed section of a passenger jet outfitted with a hospital bed. *Cuba effective for Canadian citizens now and for Americans shortly.
- **Extended Global Protection Through The SkyMed Ultimate:** Fifth, the \$59 per month plan is a family Ultimate plan which protects you worldwide. The \$49 plan is for people who travel in the SkyMed universe only; it provides a discount since worldwide coverage is not needed. The \$35 per month plan is for singles who also travel only within the SkyMed universe. Should those singles require worldwide coverage, it's available for an additional \$10 per month starting at membership inception.
- **Membership Payment Period:** Sixth, all monthly plans have a set duration of five years after which you can renew them at then-current pricing. You must pay the monthly membership fee for at least two years after inception.
- **Prepayment Discount:** Should you wish to prepay the five-year membership price for your family Ultimate SkyMed membership, you can do so and receive a discount. Although payments can be made by credit card or check, check payments delay the effective date until the check has cleared. Credit card payments are deducted upon the approval of your application, which generally takes only one business day unless additional medical information is required.
- **Pre-existing Conditions:** There is a 90 day waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions, after which they're covered in full.
- **An Extraordinary Suite of Benefits:** The SkyMed suite of benefits goes well beyond anything anyone else offers. The SkyMed Ultimate includes helicopter protection from the scene of an accident as well as medically necessary hospital to hospital helicopter transportation. The Ultimate also includes friend or relative visitation. If you are too ill to be moved, SkyMed will fly a loved one to your bedside. There are literally dozens of other benefits that you can see at www.skymed.com/jmbsexm .
- All benefits are fully explained in the Master Service Agreement which governs all memberships and is mailed to all members after joining SkyMed.

To obtain SkyMed medical evacuation protection, you can either call Jeff Berger directly at 508-830-3456 any time from 9 to 5 Eastern. He will be able to answer your questions and take your application over the phone. You can also phone SkyMed directly at 1-800-475-9633. Ask for Nan or Jim. Call anytime from 9 to 4 weekdays Pacific time. You must mention you are a JMB Website Supporters member; have your Membership Card handy.

Discounts apply to JMB Website Supporters members only. We welcome non JMB members to SkyMed, of course, but JMB Website Supporters members pay the discounted rate, while others pay retail.

11. Tributes Celebrate the Life of the Late Curtis Heyliger

Still only in his 40s, St. Maarten's Vice Prime Minister Theo Heyliger has been in politics all his life. He's the grandson of Claude Wathey, an island political figure who has attained near legendary status and after whom the cruise and cargo facilities in Philipsburg were named.

The island was stunned more than a week ago when Theo's eldest son Curtis, age 22, a college student at the University of St. Maarten, was killed in a tragic car accident.

The SXM Daily Herald newspaper noted that college president Annelies Oliver-Van den Assem said that the loss of the young man has left a void and caused many great pain. "Curtis was a special student at USM because he was also the grandson of Claude Wathey, cofounder of USM and a nephew of Al Wathey, board member of USM. In our human understanding of things, of course he was much too young to leave us. He had his dreams, hopes and ambitions like us all. One of those ambitions was doing his education at USM."

More: <http://bit.ly/1oBehho>

12. Dutch Side Police Open Cole Bay Substation; P-Burg Due Next

Last winter when we were on the island, we had dinner with St. Maarten police chief Commissioner Peter De Witte, a seasoned veteran who credited his community policing policies with the reduction in crime on the island since he has been there. "Community policing has been proven to work and we are implementing that and many other advanced techniques here," he told us.

Last week, Dutch side police opened a Cole Bay substation. There is also one in Simpson Bay and another coming in Philipsburg.

13. Lagoon Authority Surveying Traffic Bottlenecks: Objective, Alleviation

The Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority oversees boat traffic in the lagoon and operates the Simpson Bay Causeway. Because the Causeway was created both as a fail-safe device in case the Simpson Bay drawbridge stops working and to mitigate traffic congestion, it is the Authority's responsibility to ensure that the Causeway is doing its job.

Now, the Lagoon Authority is surveying traffic bottlenecks in Simpson Bay. Its objective is to identify remaining bottlenecks and to recommend solutions.

As always, we'll keep you posted. More: <http://bit.ly/1i9EOOM>

14. For Simpson Bay Development Plans, More and More Questions

Ever since the Dutch side government announced development plans for Simpson Bay, it has received little but criticism from every conceivable direction.

One focal point for criticism is a proposal for a new Marina along the shores of Simpson Bay lagoon.

When the Dutch side government built the Simpson Bay Lagoon Causeway, it rescued mangroves from the area and re-planted them along the lagoon shore. That's the area where the government proposes to uproot the mangroves and build another Marina.

The development of Isle de Sol Marina for super megayachts on Snoopy island within the Simpson Bay lagoon aggravated Simpson Bay traffic, necessitating the eventual construction of the Causeway. The impacts of another Marina are unknown, as are how to solve those impacts.

But the biggest objections right now are to the idea that the mangroves and the conservation area associated with them may well be destroyed for another Marina. More: <http://bit.ly/1pNL1rw>

15. SXM-Pride Foundation Decries Plan to Destroy Mangrove Stands for Marina Development

From SXM Pride Foundation:

"The area where the eastern side of the ... Causeway connects to the island is characterized by one of the few remaining mangrove stands dominated by the "black mangrove" in the Simpson Bay Lagoon." "Black mangroves stabilize the shoreline, provide buffers from storm surges, trap debris and detritus and provide feeding, breeding and nursery grounds for a great variety of fish, shellfish, birds and other wildlife. The uniqueness of this area was already noticed in 1995 (Aidenvironment/EcoVision, 1995)." "Fish abundance in this area is the highest of all areas surveyed [in the Simpson Bay Lagoon]. In addition to numerous fish species, this area provides a habitat for various species that were otherwise rarely observed inside the lagoon." "The area still seems to function as a "nursery habitat" for various reef fish species as evidenced by the high abundance of their juveniles." "Combined, the features described above characterize this area as a relatively unique location within the wider Simpson Bay Lagoon area where similar habitats have already been destroyed by near shore development." "Areas where relatively healthy stands of mangroves still exist at present are the Cole Bay area, the Cupecoy area, Little Key and Mullet Pond. Combined, these areas cover less than 10% of the Simpson Bay Lagoon."

During the draft Simpson Bay Zoning plan meetings held in March and September of 2012 the Ministry of VROMI's proposals indicated that the aforementioned area would be zoned for conservation purposes based on its ecological value. To Sint Maarten Pride Foundation's surprise VROMI's Draft Simpson Bay Development plan, which is currently on public review, now proposes to zone this and a number of other ecologically valuable areas for the construction of "significant" marinas. Sint Maarten Pride Foundation believes that the draft Simpson Bay Zoning Plans in the format currently on public review at the Ministry of VROMI will facilitate the further destruction of the Simpson Bay Lagoon if left unaltered. Considering that the plans do not seem to represent the wishes of the majority of the attendees of the various draft Simpson Bay Lagoon Zoning Plan meetings held in Simpson Bay, Pride is calling on the population at large to file objections to the plans at the Ministry of VROMI and the Government building on or before June 3rd, 2014. Sint Maarten Pride Foundation furthermore believes Minister Maurice Lake of Environmental Affairs (VROMI) should do the honorable thing and have the plans altered to reflect the wishes of the people and the principles of sustainable development. For more information visit www.facebook.com/sintmaartenpride .

The Nature Foundation is in the same place; see next story.

16. Nature Foundation Decries Turning "Green" Areas into Development Zones

Here is that story: <http://bit.ly/1hmkRJI>

17. Food for Thought from Environmentalist Reuben Thompson

A very eloquent environmentalist addresses many things happening now on SXM:

<http://www.todaysxm.com/2014/06/05/opinion-concrete-jungles/>

18. Rotary Unveils Peace Monument

The story: <http://bit.ly/1q2kP9J>

19. Billfish Tournament Starts This Week; Orange Grove Band to Play on June 14

The Saint Martin Billfish Tournament kicks off June 10 at Marina Fort Louis, with the Caribbean's finest fishing teams battling it out on the famous Marlin Boulevard from June 11 to 14.

There will be over \$100,000 in cash and prizes. This year the Tournament Record prize is a beautiful 2014 Contender bay boat sponsored by Contender. Boats are expected from all corners of the region. 2013 saw the introduction of "Fun" prizes for largest Tuna, Wahoo, and Dolphin fish (Mahi Mahi). Two new prize categories include Best Junior Angler - for anglers 15 years old and younger, and Best Female Angler.

There will also be three nights of concerts. Kicking things off June 11 will be reggae sensation British Dependency, followed by soca legend Onyan on June 12. The highlight will be the closing night, June 14, where St. Martin's very own, legendary, Orange Grove performs.

20. How You Can Help Local Children Visit The St. Maarten Park / Zoo

Want to do something good for your favorite island?

Donate anything you can to help buy family memberships (\$125/year) or enable children to enter the St. Maarten Zoo / Park.

The Facebook group SXM or Bust is composed of over 1000 members who love St Maarten and visit regularly. A few members of SXM or Bust donated to raise enough money for two family memberships, asking that the memberships be given to deserving families. Barbara Ejingiri and her four

children received one membership and Maria Kromodihadjo and her four children received the second membership. Another person sent the Zoo a check for \$50 and wanted it for 10 children to be able to enter the zoo.

We'd like to ask our readers to do the same. Send a check in any amount payable to St. Maarten Zoo. Address it to Barbara Cannegieter, 6800 Bird Road #100-22, Miami, FL 33155 USA. In the memo area please write "SXM Weekly News."

Thank you from the children of SXM.

21. Comedy Festival Coming Later This Month

We reported recently that a comedy show comes to SXM late this month.

See the program: <http://www.laughtillbellyburstcomedyfestsxm.com/program-2014/>

If you enjoy comedy, come....

22. How To Get \$300 or \$400 From Jeff / JMB Communications

JMB Communications, the 24 year-old marketing company that does Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin, also owns "Websites That Work." Its uniqueness is that it is a marketing company doing marketing-centric websites for all kinds of companies worldwide. See many samples at www.websitesthatworkusa.com. (Our everythingsxm.com site is getting a design upgrade this summer).

You can get at least \$300 for referring web design prospects to us. You get \$400 if you're a JMB Website Supporters member (a membership sale is underway; see the beginning of this section). To get the referral bonus, just refer business people you know to us. After they start a new website development project with us, we'll pay you a finder's fee for the business. You can even refer yourself. Limit: one discount and/or finder's fee per project/referral. Just tell them about us and let us know how to contact them. We'll take it from there. Email jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with your referral and please use the subject "Website Referral." We'll need their name, email address, and daytime phone number. There is no limit to the number of referral fees we'll pay. Fees are paid only if / when a new website development project results and is launched and paid for.

23. Caribbean Recipe of the Week

Our newest recipe appears first in the Entrees section. We grow this list every week, so ultimately you'll see tons of prior recipes here in one convenient place. The newest recipes are dated; that started 5/19/14.

Entrees:

Caribbean Chicken with Jalapeno Mango Sauce <http://www.powerofffamilymeals.com/recipes/5032> 6/9/14

Caribbean Chicken Wings <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/sunny-anderson/sunny-andersons-caribbean-chicken-wings-recipe.html> 5/19/14

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:

Roasted and Fried Breadfruit <http://cooklikeajamaican.com/roasted-and-fried-breadfruit/> 5/27/14

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

Desserts:

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

24. Steel Pan Music of the Week

This feature brings you steel band / steel orchestra selections every week.

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

6/9/14: The Story of Steel Drums (interesting): http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/trinidad_steeldrums?source=relatedvideo

5/28/14: Shake Shake Shake Sonora (you will love it): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VeaMEiWo-4>

5/19/14: "Over the Rainbow" CSULB proves even white guys can play (shot April, 2014): <http://vimeo.com/93111978>

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.)

25. 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:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

26. 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 over

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 and depart from Boca Marina near Princess Juliana Airport.

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

27. 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 -- but see story 8a, in this issue), 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. Only \$59, \$49, or \$35 per month, ongoing; the \$59/month plan includes global protection.

Specifically: 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, 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 prepaid 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 prepaid 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/jmbxsm . 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)

Returns soon.

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.

Book mark 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](mailto: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)

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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.

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

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