

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](#)



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

#951

Weekly SXM News and Comments

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Important Note:

You are receiving [St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News](#) because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have over 200,000 readers around the world...

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



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Attention iPad, iPhone, and Android Users

This new format is easily readable on most mobile devices; scroll down for this week's news. You can also download a pdf of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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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 #951 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:

- Repeat: Before Returning to the US From Overseas, Be Sure All Electronic Devices are Fully Charged... Or They Could be Confiscated**
- New Format Coming for SXM Weekly News**
- Daily Herald Reports on Unexpected Steel Pan Music in Philipsburg**
- Lots of Accusations in Government Is Normal During SXM Political Campaigns**
- Don't Eat Shark, Nature Foundation Warns**
- Are You Dreaming of Moving to St. Maarten & Starting a Business?**

- **About Your Safety in Low Season**
- **Second Simpson Bay-Area Bank Robbery; No One Hurt**
- **Disappointment in SXM As Netherlands Falls Out of World Cup Competition**
- **Holland Is Not a Country; Netherlands Is**
- **Caribbean Recipe of the Week**

20 new stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rentals and Sales 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 SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week (Two):

RENTAL 09/27/2014-10/04/2014 Week 39 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Sleep 8 Penthouse (M510). Unit overlooks Simpson Bay and features three bedrooms/three baths. Large living room has a sleeper sofa, and the kitchen is fully equipped with a separate dining room. This unit also has a Jacuzzi tub, in-unit washer/dryer. Enjoy the views of the pool, beach and amazing sunsets from the oversized balcony. Also view the yachts in Simpson Bay along with watching the mega cruise ships as they sail by. Resort amenities: gated security, free Wi-fi, 6 large swimming pools, swim up bar, snack bars, access to private beach, several restaurants, a casino, a deli, gift shops and water sports. \$1,500. Renter pays \$50.00 timeshare tax. Jane (203)378-9326 eberlewm@optonline.net

RENTAL 12/20/2014 01/03/2015 week 51 and week 52 Atrium Resort Renovated 2-bedroom lockout on 4th floor sleep six overlooking Caribbean Sea. Excellent location on Dutch side within walking distance to casino, grocery stores, numerous restaurants and walkout direct to pool and sandy beach. New furniture, appliances and TV's. Wrap around balcony with lounge chairs and table. \$1350.00 per week Brian 416-460-4916 brian@tristarpromotions.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 \$1999

or best reasonable offer. Please contact Susan or Jeff at (508) 830-3456 or susan@jmbcommunications.com

SALE 9/14/2014 9/21/2014 Week #37 Royal Palm Beach Resorts 2 Bedroom ,2 bathrooms, large kitchen,dining room living room with sofa bed over looking Simpson Bay. Recently updated. Resort has restaurant, full gym,hair salon,deli,bar and swimming pool. Walk to many excellent restaurants. 5 minutes from airport. \$1,200.00 Edward. 914 582 2156 Eplate@webtv.net Posted 11/3/13.

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

1. Before Flying Home, Be Sure All Electronic Devices are Fully Charged... Or They Could be Confiscated
2. Pilot Reports on US Customs Kiosk Program For Expedited Trips Through Customs
3. Jet Blue Automates Check-In

4. *Fearing a "New Generation Hurricane"*

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

5. *Club Orient Kicks Off Family Month*

6. *Club Fantastico Offering New Years Packages*

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

Ad: For Your Own Peace of Mind, Please Never Travel Without SkyMed

7. *New Format Coming for SXM Weekly News*

8. *Bad News / Good News On Chikungunya in the US & Canada*

9. *Second Simpson Bay-Area Bank Robbery; No One Hurt*

10. *Disappointment in SXM As Netherlands Falls Out of World Cup Competition*

11. *Holland Is Not a Country; Netherlands Is*

12. *Daily Herald Reports on Unexpected Steel Pan Music in Philipsburg*

13. *Lots of Accusations in Government Is Normal During SXM Political Campaigns*

14. *Don't Eat Shark, Nature Foundation Warns*

15. *Satara's Brian Allen Leaves His Dream of a Kansas City Smokehouse*

16. *Are You Dreaming of Moving to St. Maarten & Starting a Business?*

17. *About Your Safety in Low Season*

18. *Restaurant of the Week:*

19. *Caribbean Recipe of the Week*

20. *Reserve Your Free Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now*

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. Before Flying Home, Be Sure All Electronic Devices are Fully Charged... Or They Could Be Seized

Wanted to repeat this for you . . . and we suggest you share this entire edition with all your SXM friends:

The TSA is asking a number of overseas governments to enhance their surveillance of passengers with electronic devices on flights to the United States. The reason: the TSA is concerned that terrorists could potentially package bombs within ordinary looking cell phones, iPads, e-readers, or laptop computers.

If you're traveling anywhere outside the United States with such devices, be sure they're fully charged before you get to airport security. In many airports, possibly including SXM, you will be asked to turn on the devices and if you cannot do that, the devices may be seized.

2. Pilot Reports on US Customs Kiosk Program For Expedited Trips Through Customs

Jo, a longtime reader who is also a pilot for American Airlines, writes the following concerning the Customs and Border Patrol Global Entry Program:

Passport control kiosks now at MIA:

MIA's automated passport control (APC) kiosks, which have cut wait times by 40 percent for U.S. citizens since last November, are now available to travelers from the 38 countries participating in the U.S. Department of State's Visa Waiver Program (VWP). APC technology allows travelers arriving at MIA from abroad to have their passports processed in less than two minutes via a self-service APC kiosk instead of waiting in line for a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer. MIA is one of the first U.S. airports to provide APC kiosks to eligible travelers from VWP countries.

The Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) purchased and installed 36 APC kiosks in MIA's North Terminal last November at a total cost of \$3.5 million. Thirty kiosks currently serve passengers arriving at concourses D, E and F, and six kiosks have been relocated and installed in MIA's South Terminal to process passengers from concourses H and J beginning in July. The airport plans to purchase and install an additional 36 kiosks by year's end. You can check out more information about the Visa Waiver Program.

3. Jet Blue Automates Check-In

Other airlines have done this as reported previously, but this seems to us to be quite innovative:

JetBlue Airways has announced the launch of automatic check-in, a technological enhancement that will allow customers to focus on their travel plans and not the need to get to a computer 24 hours before their flight departs to check-in.

Automatic check-in is the most recent step in the airline's continued focus on making the JetBlue Experience even more convenient. This initial technological innovation removes the need for customers to ever have to check-in for their flights. Beginning today, eligible customers will receive an email 24 hours before their scheduled flight with a ready-to-print boarding pass, as well as the option to download a Mobile Boarding Pass via JetBlue iOS or Android mobile apps. With the printed boarding pass or mobile app, customers are ready to head to the airport, and on to their flight.

In addition to removing this occasionally burdensome check-in process, initiating the process a full 24 hours ahead of a flight is also expected to enable the ability to catch and notify customers of any information inconsistencies or issues with special service requests in a reservation that might otherwise remain unresolved until their arrival at the airport. For those customers not currently eligible for automatic check-in, or those customers who need to address outstanding requirements within their booking, the standard check-in notification process will remain in place.

"The idea of asking customers to jump an additional hurdle before their flight is an increasingly antiquated concept," says Blair Koch, JetBlue Vice President Commercial and Shared Development Services. "By having the right systems in place, we can remove this step, and even help identify and prevent issues that can hinder customers from fully enjoying their travel experience."

"JetBlue's focus since day one of our launch has been about looking at the customer experience through a different lens and making the travel experience simpler and more enjoyable," says Michael Stromer, JetBlue Vice President of Digital, Loyalty & Customer Insights. "Following our successful smartphone and mobile boarding pass launches, auto check-in is just another example of leveraging technology and common sense to make our customers' travel experiences better."

Eligible customers at launch include individuals who have booked domestic itineraries with Even More Space™ seats and will expand to include additional customers as the program evolves over the next year. Expansion to include additional customers in assigned core seats, is expected to begin in 2015. International travelers and those customers who still have unassigned seats, become eligible later in the new year.*

4. Fearing a "New Generation Hurricane"

This may be worrisome -- a prospective side effect of climate change:

<http://www.todaysxm.com/2014/07/09/opinion-new-generation-hurricane/>

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. Club Orient Kicks Off Family Month

Naturist Club Orient writes:

Enjoy a free upgrade when you book a stay at Club Orient for July 15-August 15th, and bring the whole family. Just reserve a Studio or a Mini Suite

and be upgraded to a Garden Chalet, or book a Mini Suite Deluxe and be upgraded to a Beach Chalet.

The kids will enjoy a variety of family-friendly clothing-optional activities such as snorkeling, sailing and paddle boating, while you soak up the sun at one of the world's best beaches.

Availability is limited, so reserve now at www.cluborient.com.

- Promotion is valid for stays between July 15 & August 15
- A family must be traveling with a child under the age of 18
- Any days before July 15th or after Aug 15th will be charged at regular rate
- All other reservation rules apply
- Discount is cumulative with 10% Naturist Discount

Club Orient is a family-friendly clothing-optional beach resort in Saint-Martin, French West Indies, at the southern end of Orient Beach.

6. Club Fantastico Offering New Years Packages

Naturist Club Fantastico writes:

Come relax, party and celebrate your summer vacation with us. You stayed at the rest, now stay at the best. TripAdvisor loves us, check out our reviews. View our rates at www.clubfantastico.net.

Stay more than 7 nights and get 2 nights for tax only. This includes breakfast and bar option. Prices good through September 30, 2014

Announcing our New Year's Eve 2014 4 day, 3 night package with full American breakfast and liquor included. Big New Years Eve party, rock naked at Club Fantastico. This party is for the Big Dogs \$1750.00 plus tax.

SECTION 3: Island

Final Three Days: Ends This Sunday, July 13:

Ilene's Birthday Membership Sale

(Ilene Berger is 39, sorta.)

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

***Only \$105 for five full years.
Great prices on renewals and reinstatements, too.***

***Get 200 Discounts & Travel Benefits at Extraordinary Pricing
Right Now.***

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. 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.***

Ilene'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 Ends Sunday July 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>

Ilene'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)

For Your Own Peace of Mind, Please Never Travel Without SkyMed

Each of us sees our own share of medical emergencies, or those of friends or relatives. Having a medical evacuation membership facilitates getting help when you suddenly find yourself critically ill or injured away from home. Without membership, you must pay for the evacuation in cash, in advance -- if you can get it -- and the cost can easily be \$45,000 or more.

There are many medical evacuation companies, but only SkyMed guarantees to take you home should you become critically ill or injured throughout the SkyMed universe, which consists of the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, all the nations of the Caribbean soon to include Cuba, plus Belize and Costa Rica. Should you want protection when you travel anywhere in the world, you can get that, too. But the point is simply this: don't travel anywhere without making sure you have medical evacuation protection.

There are a number of SkyMed plans available. Short-term plans are the least expensive in terms of initial outlay, but you must get medically requalified every time you want a short-term plan. The obvious downside to that is that eventually you will cross the line of coverage eligibility, which means your health at some point will be such that you're unable to be covered. By contrast, both SkyMed annual and Ultimate plans require only one medical qualification when you first enroll. Pay renewals on time, and your membership continues uninterrupted and is renewable indefinitely without further medical requalification regardless of your age or health.

The cost of SkyMed never increases because of your advancing age, nor is SkyMed ever canceled strictly because of advancing age, which is in sharp contrast to many other plans. SkyMed Takes You Home -- what else matters?

Get yourself protected against the high cost of medical evacuation and you will simultaneously find yourself with great peace of mind. Call SkyMed any weekday Pacific time at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan or Jim. Tell them you are a JMB Website Supporters member to get the best rates; they will ask for your membership number. If you're not a member, join; our Ilene's birthday sale is now underway; see the homepage at www.everythingSXM.com.

You can also get complete information about SkyMed directly from Jeff Berger, SkyMed rep for the past 12 years; phone him at the JMB office any weekday at 508-830-3456. He can answer any questions and even sign you up over the phone.

7. New Format Coming for SXM Weekly News

Ever since we did a major update of the format of this newsletter, the vast majority of readers of St. Maarten Weekly News have had no issues viewing it.

However, today, more people are viewing e-mail and web content on a greater variety of electronic devices than ever — PCs, Macintosh computers, iPhones, iPads, androids, and more. If they're using web browsers, there is an increasing variety of those, too, and they change constantly.

All of this requires constant design changes by those who design newsletters such as ours. In a few instances, elegantly simple formats like ours are bastardized when shown in certain browsers.

If you've ever had any difficulty viewing our newsletter, the above sentence explains why.

To solve this problem permanently, we've decided to move to a new "adaptive" newsletter creation tool. Adaptive means that the tool will render newsletters that adapt to the device on which you view them, making Weekly News easy to read anywhere.

We just pulled the trigger on this project, as the quietest time of the year for St. Maarten tourism approaches. Our hope is to have the new format launched in September or possibly sooner.

In the meantime, here are PDF archives of all issues since early April, 2014: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

8. Bad News / Good News On Chikungunya in the US & Canada

Over the last several weeks, several hundred cases of Chikungunya have been reported in many parts of the United States. It's only a matter of time before cases are reported in Canada.

Reportedly, every case recorded so far in North America originated from mosquito bites suffered in places where Chikungunya is present, from Africa to the Caribbean.

Chikungunya is not contagious human to human, and in fact it can be caught only from certain strains of mosquitoes and then only if those specific mosquitoes have bitten other people who already have the Chikungunya virus.

The strains of mosquito that may carry Chikungunya are apparently not present in the United States or Canada. The main culprit is the aedes aegypti mosquito, which is unusual looking – it's black with white spots on its body and at joints in its legs.

Epidemiologists and other doctors do not yet know whether Chikungunya will "set up" presence in any mosquitoes found in the US or Canada, which would enable those mosquitoes to become vectors for transmission of the disease.

Regardless of all that, everyone should always be taking precautions against mosquito bites, both here in North America and in St. Maarten. Diseases carried by mosquitoes in the United States may include the West Nile virus and Eastern equine encephalitis, both of which can kill people. Chikungunya is not fatal except in rare cases where people have other underlying significant medical problems.

9. Second Simpson Bay-Area Bank Robbery; No One Hurt

Simpson Bay in Dutch St. Maarten near Cole Bay has suffered its second bank robbery. A few weeks ago, the Bank of Nova Scotia in Simpson Bay was robbed, now it is the First Caribbean Bank.

The following is a statement from the St. Maarten Dutch side police:

On Tuesday July 7th between 09.50 and 10.00 a.m. several phone calls came in to the Central Police Dispatch reporting an armed robbery at the First Caribbean Bank on Welfare road.

According to the reports three armed men dressed completely in dark clothing stormed into the bank holding the security guard and the personnel of the bank hostage. The robbers then proceeded to rob the bank while threatening to use their weapons. No one was injured during this robbery.

After committing this act the robbers fled the bank on foot running towards the rear of the building. It is still unclear if the robbers used a vehicle to leave the area.

Immediately several police patrols, detectives and forensic investigators went to the scene to investigate and search the area to locate the suspects.

The detectives are questioning witnesses and the Forensic Department was gathering evidence on the scene. No suspects have been arrested in this case thus far.

The Police Department is asking anyone who saw what took place or have any other information concerning this case to give the police department a call using 911, the tip line 9300 or 5420433. As more information becomes available the media will be informed.

Our tip line is a telephone number which you can call if you want to talk to the police (guaranteed) anonymously. You don't have to tell your name or phone number. So if you want to give us information about this robbery, but you don't want to hand over personal information, you might want to call 9300.

10. Disappointment in SXM As Netherlands Falls Out of World Cup Competition

There was a lot of disappointment on the Dutch side late last week as the Netherlands fell out of World Cup competition in their semifinal match. The good news was that they were not trounced like Brazil was, and in fact the game between the Netherlands and Argentina wasn't decided until a shootout at the end of the game.

11. Holland Is Not a Country; Netherlands Is

If you've ever been confused by what the differences between Holland and the Netherlands, here is the answer. The bottom line: the Netherlands is a country; Holland isn't.

Interestingly, those tulip bulbs you buy aren't from any country named Holland. There is no country named Holland.

Look: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE_IUPInEuc

More stories follow these messages.

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 but it's much less per year if you join for several years. 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. Daily Herald Reports on Unexpected Steel Pan Music in Philipsburg

The SXM Daily Herald investigated why steel pan music was being heard in downtown Philipsburg. It subsequently reported:

"During the last week and a half, passers-by and tourists have been pausing outside Oranje School, where the sound of the steel pan has been emanating from the building. Some 60 children of Mighty Dow's Musical Foundation are responsible for the sounds, which put a smile on faces of locals and tourists alike, guided by five teachers plus Mighty Dow himself."

Mighty Dow, as you might have guessed, is a near legend steel pan maestro on SXM.

"Dow's Summer Steel Pan Workshop started on July 2 and will continue until July 18, when it will be concluded with a concert in which the children will show off their new or improved skills. A location for the concert is not yet known, but will be published as soon as it becomes known."

Though steel pan music was originated in Trinidad and Tobago, it has spread worldwide. Action is underway to make steel pans the official instruments of SXM.

Indeed, Dow's Musical Foundation, with the help of government, has recently acquired a piece of land in Sucker Garden, where it is planning to build a music academy. The Herald quotes Dow as saying, "We are now planning and designing the building of the academy, and the aim is to have the building ready in time for the 2015/2016 school year."

There are also efforts to teach steep pan music in the schools. Neat stuff....

13. Lots of Accusations in Government Is Normal During SXM Political Campaigns

If you hear or read about lots of political accusations, finger-pointing, and other political bickering on the Dutch Side now, it's up a few notches from usual because elections will be held around the height of hurricane season. Politics in SXM makes US politics calm by comparison. Take it all with a grain of salt....

14. Don't Eat Shark, Nature Foundation Warns

The St. Maarten Nature Foundation is advising against the consumption of shark meat due to the flesh containing high levels of mercury and the potential for ciguatera fish poisoning.

The United States Food and Drug Administration FDA in a recent CNN article has issued a warning against the eating of shark meat which may expose consumers to potentially dangerous, high levels of the metal mercury. While certain amounts of mercury in the environment is natural, growing worldwide pollution of our oceans appears to be increasing the risk of high mercury levels in some fish, particularly predatory fish such as sharks. According to the FDA too much mercury in one's diet from any source can cause loss of coordination, blindness or even death.

The Nature Foundation has been noticing that a few restaurants are advertising shark on their menus; "This poses two problems; the first is related to the health risks associated with the consumption of sharks, the second is related to the fact that, although shark meat is legal to own the intentional harming and killing of sharks is banned on the island," read a Nature Foundation release.

The reputation of sharks as blood thirsty creatures are largely exaggerated by sensationalist reports and thousands more people are killed in dog attacks yearly than are bitten by sharks. Countries all over the world have recognized the importance of these animals and nearly two years after the historic decision to legally protect sharks and rays in St. Maarten's territorial waters sharks and rays are now also under international protection, becoming the latest additions to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The Nature Foundation has also been conducting a Shark Research Project including a study that established that a single live shark is worth up to USD \$884,000 to the economy of the island, as is opposed to just a few dollars dead. The majority of divers who come to the island pay top dollar to see sharks in their Natural Environment. These divers also rent cars, stay in hotels, eat at restaurants and drink in bars. Taking all of that into account and based on research conducted by the Nature Foundation a single live shark contributes \$884,000 to the economy of St. Maarten annually. Sharks are an apex predator and are essential to the health of local coral reefs and if we do not have sharks we will lose our coral reef ecosystem. Sharks keep the reefs clean of unhealthy fish which in turn keeps the ecosystem in balance. They are a critical component in an ecosystem that provides 1/3 of our world with food, produces more oxygen than all the rainforests combined, removes half of the atmosphere's man made carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas), and controls our planet's temperature and weather.

"Aside from the health threats associated with consuming shark meat it would be a wise and conscious decision to avoid eating these animals because they are close to becoming extinct. Despite their status as protected on St. Maarten sharks are increasingly under global pressure. A quarter of the world's sharks and rays are threatened with extinction according to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Therefore we would like to appeal to the community to avoid consuming sharks."

15. Satara's Brian Allen Leaves His Dream of a Kansas City Smokehouse

Our friend Brian Allen, who has spent many years on St. Maarten and recently owned the Satara restaurant there, has been working for a number of months on creating a Kansas City steakhouse with authentic recipes on the former site of Satara.

In fact, if you look at their location across the street from Pineapple Pete amid a lot of greenery, you'll notice the construction area of the smokehouse near the front of the restaurant, just off the street.

Brian Allen has called it a day, and has moved out of St. Maarten and back to the USA. "I've decided to move on," he told us.

If you have been dreaming of opening a restaurant in St. Maarten, read the next article; for Americans and Canadians, it is definitely not easy, as most foreigners will tell you.

We expect to talk to Brian again over the next several weeks and will let you know what he has to say.

16. Are You Dreaming of Moving to St. Maarten & Starting a Business?

Many people from the US and Canada dream of moving to the Caribbean and opening their own business there.

Over the years, we've talked to literally dozens of such people and their stories are remarkably similar.

Our friend the late Ric Hetzel of Ric's Place told us the key to making a lot of money in business in St. Maarten is to bring a lot with you and not spend any of it.

Talk to Americans and Canadians who have done it before so you are well versed in local labor laws, which is essential. Once you hire someone, it is very difficult to fire them, no matter what. And if a hurricane comes and puts you out of business for several months, your staff will still expect to be paid and the law requires it, even if there's nothing for them to do.

Then there's the matter of being sure you hire people with the right attitude and who are honest -- the same worry you have in the US with the added challenge of knowing you can easily fire your hires back home.

If you open a restaurant, bear in mind it must be a passion, not a dream. It requires very long hours, very hard work, and no let up, ever. You must also realize that St. Maarten has a brief high season of January through March, when you make most of your money for the year. If you do well from April through July, that will hold you thru hurricane season, when many businesses have very few customers.

17. About Your Safety in Low Season

As we've previously reported, crime on the Dutch side has been decreasing for the last few years, despite the recent bank robberies.

On both sides of the island, but more on the French side, crime seems to spike in low season, for whatever reason.

If you're visiting the island in low season, check our web page "Crime in St. Maarten / St. Martin." It contains valuable advice:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/sxm_news/crime-in-st-maarten-st-martin.shtml

18. Restaurant of the Week: Spiga Restaurant

We first visited Spiga years ago not long after it opened. Its owners are *Ciro Russo* and *Lara Bergamasco Russo*, whose dad is *Livio of da Livio*, the long-lived Italian fine dining restaurant that was in Philipsburg for many years.

We liked Spiga a lot when we first visited it and somehow, it becomes orders of magnitude better every year. Freshness, quality, creativity, and flavor are what it's all about here, from appetizer to dessert. One thing we do a lot at Spiga is try new things. No matter what you crave -- beef, seafood, poultry, vegetarian dishes -- they know their stuff and do a consistently superb job. They're at the northern end of Grand Case, French Side, across the street from the Tijen Parfumerie.

They are the fourth restaurant listed below. Do go -- and tell them we recommended them to you. Terrific place.

Recently featured 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.dawnbeachxsm.com (featured 6/28/14)

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 7/14/14)

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 6/23/14)

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.dawnbeachxsm.com> (featured 6/28/14)

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachxsm.com> (featured 6/28/14)

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/> (featured 5/19/14)

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

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

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

Sushiito Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance 3/17/14

We'll write about another SXM restaurant here next week as we continue our summer SXM restaurant coverage.

19. Caribbean Recipe of the Week

Caribbean Christmas Pudding with Brandy Butter is our latest recipe; see the link under desserts, below. We grow this list every week, so ultimately you'll see tons of prior recipes here in one convenient place. The most recent recipes are dated.

Appetizers:

Caribbean Plantain Chips <http://www.yummly.com/recipe/Caribbean-spiced-Crispy-Baked-Plantain-Chips-560168?columns=5&position=5%2F67>
(7/7/14)

Entrees:

Caribbean Sushi rolls <http://caribbeanvegan.wordpress.com/2010/09/19/caribbean-sushi-and-a-first-timers-experience-rolling-sushi/> 6/21/14

Caribbean Chicken with Jalapeno Mango Sauce <http://www.poweroffamilymeals.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 Christmas Pudding w/ Brandy Butter <http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/Caribbean-Christmas-Pudding-with-Brandy-Butter-9327/14/14>

Caribbean Rum soaked cake: <http://latinfood.about.com/od/desserts/r/Bacardi-Rum-Soaked-Bacardi-Cake.htm> 6/30/14

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

20. 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 thousands of 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 they depart from Boca Marina near Princess Juliana Airport.

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

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Want to rent or buy a week?

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

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

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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.

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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

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