

[This  
Week's  
Stories](#)

[Airlines  
Airlines  
& Weather  
News](#)

[Lodging  
News](#)

[Island  
News](#)

[Everything  
SXM  
Home  
Page](#)

[Members  
SECRET  
Website  
Login](#)

[SXM Condo  
Rentals &  
Sales](#)

Something  
New Is Coming

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

Jul.  
21 &  
28  
2014

#952

**\*L A T E\* EDITION --- SPECIAL WEATHER INFORMATION INSIDE -----**

*Weekly SXM News and Comments*

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

Part of [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book  
to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

### Important Note:

*You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / 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:**

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

### 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

Just enter your email address at the top, and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, just click the confirming link and you're in.

### TOP STORIES

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

This is issue #952 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:

- *Tropical Activity Picking Up; Robust Tropical Waves Heading Across Atlantic -- Possibly "Bertha"*
- *What To Do About High Airfares*
- *Caravanserai Going on Auction Block Again - Price Drops to \$12-million*
- *Best Time Ever To Buy SXM Timeshares?*
- *How To Get Five Years of JMB Membership Without Paying for It (Gives You About 200 SXM Discounts)*
- *Le Domaine Closing?*
- *The Future of Sapphire & Simpson Bay Resorts*
- *How To Advertise Your SXM Timeshare For Rent or For Sale on Our Website*
- *\$200-Million Development Plan for Marigot Bay*
- *Club Orient Launches "Value Pricing"*
- *Club Med May Be Coming*
- *Dollarization Gains Some Momentum*
- *"Below Decks" Returns 8/12*

-- **What Credit Cards to Use in SXM**

-- **Warning About Seat Belts, Drinking, and Cell Phone Use When Driving**

-- **Reserve Your Free Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now**

**27 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](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](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: January 17 to January 24, 2015 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Club on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean sea. Includes a Jacuzzi whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker, marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, mini-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar -- all on the ocean. Close to Atlantis Casino, many great restaurants including Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie Rouge on the French Side, and did I say incredible restaurants? Asking only \$1050 for rent or \$4499 to buy. We also have weeks four and five available to rent or buy at nearby resorts; will discount if you buy or rent two weeks or more. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com).

RENTAL 1/24/2015 – 1/31/2015. Week 4 Diamond Royal Palm Resort. Two bedrooms with king beds, 2 baths. Sleeps 6 with Queen sleeper in living room. Beautiful 2nd floor ocean front views from master bedroom, living room and full kitchen. Enjoy all of the pluses of a five star hotel. Resort has own beach on the beautiful waters of the Caribbean, restaurant, mini-market, shops, complementary fully equipped gym, free internet, and pool with swim-up bar. Restaurants, entertainment and shops within 1 to 3 blocks walking distance. \$1650. Contact [jlw9358@gmail.com](mailto:jlw9358@gmail.com)

### **SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week (Now Two):**

SALE 01/10/2015 01/17/2015 Week 2 Simpson Bay Resort One bedroom beach front unit with full kitchen in the Flamboyant Building (F4). Sleeps four (4) with king bed and sleeper sofa. Spacious patio overlooking Caribbean Sea. \$13,000.00 Ken 409-781-3820 (cell) 409-866-8435 (home) [kseholm@gt.rr.com](mailto:kseholm@gt.rr.com)

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](mailto:susan@jmbcommunications.com)

### ***Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:***

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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***

[https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_205834172765083](https://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](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](http://www.linkedin.com)

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

[http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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

1. Tropical Activity Picking Up; Robust Tropical Waves Heading Across Atlantic -- Possibly "Bertha"
2. What To Do About High Airfares
3. Last Call: Before Flying Home, Be Sure All Electronic Devices are Fully Charged... Or You May Lose Them
4. Cruises Staying at Lowest Prices of the Year

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

5. Caravanserai Goes On The Auction Block Again 8/13 1000 am Pasangrahan Beach Hotel Front Street
6. Le Domaine Closing?
7. Want to Rent or Buy a SXM Timeshare? Do It Now -- Here's Why (Lots Going On)
8. Our Optimism About Sapphire Resort Remains Strong
9. How To Advertise Your SXM Timeshare For Rent or For Sale on Our Website

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

*Get Five Years of JMB Membership Free Now Thru 8/31 Only  
When You Get a Five-Year "SkyMed Ultimate" Medical Evacuation Plan from*

10. French Side Business Leaders Review \$200-Million Marigot Bay Development Plans
11. Dengue Fever Vaccine Looks Promising in Tests
12. An Update on Chikungunya & Mosquitoes
13. Club Orient Changes to "Value" Pricing: Could Increase The Cost of High Season Stays
14. Club Med Eyeing Caribbean Expansion, Possibly on SXM
15. Erosion Takes a Temporary Toll on Orient Beach
16. Dollarization Favored by St. Maarten Democratic Party
17. French Side Should Dollarize, Dutch Side Politician Says
18. So Is It a Hee-Achee?
  
19. "Below Decks" Due Back August 12
20. Update Re: Peg Leg Pub, Port de Plaisance; and Satara, Simpson Bay
21. What Credit Cards Should You Use / Not Use in SXM?
22. Expect Lots of Politics: Parliamentary Elections Coming August 29
23. Dutch Side Police Arrest Nine on Scooters
24. Warning About Seat Belts, Drinking, and Cell Phone Use While Driving
25. Restaurant of the Week:
26. Caribbean Recipe of the Week
27. 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**

---

**Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare**

---

**Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)**

**Section Four: For Members Only (Revised**

- 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](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**

**[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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com).

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://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, &***

#### **1. Tropical Activity Picking Up; Robust Tropical Waves Heading Across Atlantic - Possibly "Bertha"**

Updated 8am 7/28:::

Meteorologists call the area in the vicinity of the equator the inter-tropical convergence zone. There, prevailing winds from the southern hemisphere interact with prevailing winds in the northern hemisphere, sometimes giving birth to storms with a counterclockwise circulation.

As August begins in the next few days, storminess across the Atlantic is expected to accelerate. Forecasters say it's possible for a tropical wave to form along the ITCZ, possibly affecting the central and northern Leeward Islands as soon as next Saturday. In fact, this morning, some forecasters were saying that the tropical depression now well east of SXM could well become Tropical Storm Bertha, approaching the Leewards this Saturday. Where exactly it may go was unknown this morning.

If you are on the island, by all means listen to local authorities and heed their advice should any advisories be issued. If you are off island but watching these developments intensely, as we all do, we invite you to click Weather on [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) to check the latest weather radar loops and satellite images. We also suggest you keep an eye on our Facebook page, [www.Facebook.com/everythingStMaarten](http://www.Facebook.com/everythingStMaarten), where we often publish storm updates.

Finally, if you live anywhere within the potential path of any tropical storm or hurricane, we strongly advise you to check out [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com), which delivers what we feel is the best private weather forecasting for the Caribbean available anywhere, and it is available at a remarkably low price.

---

#### **2. What To Do About High Airfares**

As JMB Website Supporters members are well aware, our low airfare grid on the secret website offers frequently updated information about the lowest airfares currently available to St. Maarten from about 100 cities in the US and Canada. One thing you can do to work around high airfares is to take your cue from the fares in our grid. You should not pay much more than we list.

Using our low-fare grid as your guide, you can also have airlines and other airfare monitoring websites send you updates when fares drop, so you can pounce at the appropriate time.

If you're not flying for a number of months, you can probably afford to wait a bit until fares stabilize. Events in the Middle East, as well as uncertainty over what effect the hurricane season might have on oil supplies, can easily affect the price of jet fuel and the cost of airfares. Prudence in buying, and

using our low-fare grid as your principal set of guidelines, can keep hundreds of your dollars in your pocket when you are finally at the point of purchase.

If you're not a JMB member, it's time you got this key advantage. Memberships give you some 200+ discounts across the island including our Low Fare Grid. And you can get four years for just \$99 or one year for \$59. Well worth it. More: [http://everything\\$xm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everything$xm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

---

### 3. Last Call: Before Flying Home, Be Sure All Electronic Devices are Fully Charged... Or You May Lose Them

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.

---

### 4. Cruises Staying at Lowest Prices of the Year

If you're considering going on a cruise, remember that the prices now offered by leading cruise lines are about the lowest you'll find all year long. We're about to go into the height of hurricane season which is when cruise lines most need to fill ships; hurricane season depresses cruise prices. Bottom line, book now — you won't find lower prices in the future.

#### **SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns,**

### 5. Caravanserai Going On The Auction Block Again

The Caravanserai Resort near Princess Juliana airport has been under the thumb of Scotia Bank for quite some time. The resort owes the bank lots of money and can't pay it. Consequently, the bank through various attorneys has tried a few times to auction off the resort, to no avail.

Now Caravanserai is going back on the auction block again, this time through a different law office and at a lower price: \$12-million. The auction is scheduled to take place at the Pasangrahan Beach hotel on Front Street, Philipsburg, at 10 AM on August 13, if there are any bidders. We've given up guessing what will happen, but the economy has continued to improve and the price has gone down, so we'll all see together what happens.

As always, St. Maarten Weekly News will keep you posted.



## 6. Le Domaine Closing?

We're not quite sure what's happening with Le Domaine, the French hotel in Anse Marcel next door to the former Radisson Blue, now the Riu Plaza hotel. It appears that Le Domaine will be undergoing a seasonal closing this fall. Repeated calls to the resort late last week went unanswered, but a tenant of their building says they will likely reopen in November. We're not sure what is going on there, but if you have reservations we suggest you call to reconfirm them. When we learn more, we'll let you know.

---

## 7. Want to Rent or Buy a SXM Timeshare? Do It Now -- Here's Why (Lots Going On)

There's a lot going on among St. Maarten timeshare resorts -- probably more so than in the last year.

First, as we reported, government officials recently went into Sapphire Beach Resort on a "control" (surprise inspection) to review that resort's compliance with all local regulations. It found a number of things out of compliance and ordered the resort to fix them.

Sapphire has been in negotiations to sell for quite some time. Although the sale has not gone through, at least not yet, a new management team is in place and has been making significant noticeable improvements for a number of months. Recent bad publicity and the urge to return Sapphire to the prime, highly attractive property it once was should all bode well for the future of that resort, especially if it is sold as is widely expected (and hoped).

Second, Caravanserai is up for auction again, and this third time may just be the charm. The price is lower, the economy is better, and the bank is probably more antsy than ever to get some money. We'll see, and we'll keep you posted.

Third, Simpson Bay Resort has not yet been taken over, as far as we know, by Hard Rock International, although it is widely expected that it will do so once the resort's current heavy renovations have been completed. Simpson Bay's sprawling Marina building is due for renovations next year, which means that Simpson Bay timeshare owners with units in the Marina who want to sell have an added incentive to do so before the end of this year, to avoid a large supplemental maintenance fee to fund the renovation.

If ever there were a time to rent a timeshare in St. Maarten or to buy one, this is the time; even Jeff, who spends a number of weeks every winter on the island, now has five timeshare weeks for sale -- one at Simpson Bay resort, one at Sapphire beach club, and two more -- consecutive weeks in the same unit, at Summit Resort Hotel. You will find his units as well as many others for sale and for rent in weeks three, four, and five on the timeshare rentals / sales page of [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). The prices now are about the best we've ever seen, from a buyer's perspective.

---

## 8. Our Optimism About Sapphire Resort Remains Strong

We covered part of the Sapphire Beach Resort story in the previous article. What we didn't mention there is that we've had more feedback about Sapphire Resort over the last few months than about all other St. Maarten timeshare resorts combined. Some timeshare owners were concerned about whether they should go there, while other observations ran the gamut of qualitative descriptions.

Although we haven't been in the residence part of Sapphire beach for a few years, our distinct impression based upon contacts with Sapphire timeshare owners is that the good outweighs the bad by a healthy margin. There are parts of the resort that need additional renovation or maintenance now, but the percentage of those compared to the overall resort is declining, timeshare owners say -- a good sign. It appears that the new management

continues to do its work and continues to make positive changes.

Many of you know we're selling our one week of timesharing at Sapphire. Why? Because we now lease for a few weeks and that one week is no longer something we can use. Again, for more information on weeks available for rent or for sale at Sapphire and at virtually all other St. Maarten timeshare resorts, go to [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) and click on the link to timeshare rentals and sales. We only allow ads from our paying members, which ensures you that we have a paper trail of who these individuals are. In the 18 years we've been doing timeshare ads on our site, we have never had a single complaint about any person renting out or selling any weeks.

---

## 9. How To Advertise Your SXM Timeshare For Rent or For Sale on Our Website

If you own a St. Maarten timeshare and want to either rent it out or sell it, we offer our JMB Website Supporters members the ability to advertise up to 10 timeshare weeks for sale or for rent within any 12 month period. You need only be a JMB member. To learn more about membership, go here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml). One year of JMB Website Supporters membership is \$59, but four years is only \$99 total. In addition to all those ads to rent out or sell your timeshares, membership gives you close to 200 other discounts across the island plus our low airfare grid which shows you the lowest fares we've found from more than 100 cities in the US and Canada – and how/where to get them.

### **SECTION** *Island*

## ***Get Five Years of JMB Membership Free Now Thru 8/31 Only When You Get a Five-Year "SkyMed Ultimate" Medical Evacuation Plan from Us***

### ***For Your Own Peace of Mind, Never Travel Without***

Having your own medical evacuation membership enables you to get home in a hurry when you or your spouse / partner becomes critically ill or injured away from home. Without membership, you must pay for the evacuation in cash, in advance – if you can set it up – and the cost can easily be \$45,000 or more.

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 including Cuba, plus Belize and Costa Rica. Should you need protection 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 from SkyMed.

There are a number of SkyMed plans available. Short-term plans are the least expensive in terms of initial outlay, but you must be medically requalified every time you want a short-term plan. By contrast, both SkyMed annual and Ultimate plans require only one medical qualification when you first apply. When you renew SkyMed, 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; it's just \$99 for four years or \$59 for one year. Sign up for JMB here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) . The cost of SkyMed is as little as \$59 monthly or \$49 monthly if you do not require global coverage (beyond the "SkyMed universe" we described above).

**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.**

Once you've joined SkyMed through us, email [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com) and tell them you've bought a new SkyMed Ultimate five-year membership. Upon verification, we'll extend your current JMB Website Supporters membership for five full years. Offer open to U. S. and Canadian citizens only. You must join JMB first to be eligible for this JMB membership extension. And you must join SkyMed only as described above and not by any other means to qualify for the extension. Offer ends August 31, 2014.

---

## 10. French Side Business Leaders Review \$200-Million Marigot Bay Development Plans

While the Dutch Side typically leaps head first into new development plans, the French Side is far slower. Reeling from the disparity between the Euro and the dollar, the French Side is inching toward a \$200-million development plan for Marigot Bay, including a new hotel or two, a new beach, filled in land at the harbor, a deepened channel to accommodate larger cruise ships and megayachts, and much more.

At this stage, the proposal is being reviewed by businesses, virtually all of which are hurting because Dutch Side prices are far cheaper. The project still hasn't any final go-ahead and construction seems unlikely for at least two more years.

If the French Side wants relief in a hurry, it won't come from this project.

---

***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.... [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)***

---

Get a [Website That Works](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com) for your business or professional practice from JMB, a seasoned 24 year-old marketing

[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)

---

## 11. Dengue Fever Vaccine Looks Promising in Tests

Dengue Fever -- similar to but far more serious than Chikungunya, since dengue can be fatal -- has never been preventable. But now, researchers are achieving promising results in tests of a new vaccine, which is huge news for the millions worldwide who are threatened by or who have had this dread disease: <http://www.webmd.com/news/20140711/dengue-fever-vaccine>

---

## 12. An Update on Chikungunya & Mosquitoes

Many families head to SXM for a relatively inexpensive, uncrowded summer vacation so we're often asked for current news about the Chikungunya virus.

The news is good: thanks to sustained efforts at eradicating the mosquitoes that carry Chikungunya, visitors are reporting seeing few if any mosquitoes and the virus is hardly ever in the news in SXM now.

That's not to say it's gone, but it certainly is nothing like it was last winter when thousands were affected. As always, you should use mosquito repellent even if you see no mosquitoes -- it's the wise thing to do and it's one reason for the steep drop in Chikungunya cases.

If you cancelled last winter's trip due to the virus, it's time to plan your return. Why stay home next winter and freeze? Reserve here: [www.flytravelgo.com](http://www.flytravelgo.com).

---

## 13. Club Orient Changes to "Value" Pricing: Could Increase The Cost of High Season Stays

For years, airlines have used "value pricing." Peak season fares are higher. Fares for flights that aren't selling well are reduced, and fares on flights that are nearly sold out are increased.

Now Club Orient is switching to a "Value Pricing" model. It is not raising its stated prices, but it will adjust them to reflect the value of the unit you're renting at the time you're renting it. The resort's rates for next winter are not yet posted but its "starting" rates until mid-December are; see them here:

<http://www.cluborient.com/rates.html>

If you're planning to stay at this naturist resort on Orient Beach -- the most popular naturist resort in the Caribbean -- book early. Again, what you pay may very well be higher than you expect because of the "value pricing" model.

---

## 14. Club Med Eyeing Caribbean Expansion, Possibly on SXM

Club Med says it's looking for a site for a new Caribbean resort and has whittled down the search to three islands -- Anguilla, St. Barths, and St. Martin / St. Maarten. The company says it wants a sizeable private beach location. We've asked for more including timing of when they'll decide on the site and target the resort opening and we'll let you know what we find out.

---

## 15. Erosion Takes a Temporary Toll on Orient Beach

During most summers, or so it seems, parts of the southern end of Orient Beach near Pedro's suffer erosion, and this year is no exception. Passing tropical waves have an effect but regardless of the cause, the result is much less beach now than there was during much of the winter.

No doubt it will return later this fall.

---

## 16. Dollarization Favored by St. Maarten Democratic Party

For years, the Dutch Side has been examining "dollarization" - making the US dollar its official currency. Although dollars are accepted everywhere on the Dutch Side, posted prices on gas pumps and markets are primarily in Antillean Guilders, which is confusing. One dollar is worth 1.8 guilders. Now the SXM Democratic Party, fighting to retain power in upcoming parliamentary elections (see story 22), says it wants dollarization. More:

<http://www.todaysxm.com/2014/07/22/dp-wants-dollarization-and-new-central-bank-building/>

The SXM Daily Herald newspaper and most individuals seem to favor the idea, which would make life easier for tourists. But it is still undecided.

---

## 17. French Side Should Dollarize, Dutch Side Politician Says

The French Side is whining about the disparity between the Euro and the US Dollar, since the latter is widely used on the Dutch Side. Because of the disparity, French residents and visitors are flocking to Dutch Side markets, hardware stores, and other businesses to pay less for virtually everything, and that has been impacting French businesses hard.

The French Side government implies the Dutch Side government doesn't care, and there's even talk of re-examining the "Treaty of Concordia" under which the two sides share the island without any border customs/immigration barriers.

Michael Ferrier, a Dutch Side politician who also owns NAPA on the island and is loved for his unusual NAPA radio ads, says the solution is for the

French Side to dollarize. Easier said than done, of course, but if dollarization on the French Side would eliminate the price disparity it might not be a bad idea.

---

## 18. So Is It a Hee-Achee?

Years ago, we started seeing Dutch Side Toyota vans with the model name "Hiace," which we pronounced "hee-achee."

A few years ago, we saw a smaller "Loace" Toyota van, and it was then that we realized these vehicles were "high ace" and "low ace."

There never was a hee-achee, we guess....

---

## 19. "Below Decks" Due Back August 12

Previous-season episodes of Below Decks, depicting the going-on aboard a SXM-based megayacht, are being rebroadcast now on Bravo along with a preview of Season Two, which debuts August 12.

The bad news: it's not based in SXM this time, it's on a different yacht (last season's yacht has been sold), and most of the crew isn't returning. Back are the chef, the captain, and Kat Held, the blonde woman from Rhode Island who was remembered by fans perhaps mostly for the liquid refreshments she enjoyed and for occasional below decks disrobing.

Although the crew in the series is not the yacht's "real" crew, most do have a yachting background and know what they're doing. In any case, it is, as always, an interesting show to watch.

---

## 20. Update Re: Peg Leg Pub, Port de Plaisance; and Satara, Simpson Bay

As we reported earlier this year, Peg Leg Pub has closed, after a long successful run in both Simpson Bay and at Port de Plaisance. Their equipment was sold off before they left. Now, other prospects are looking at that property but as of now, we've not heard anything about anyone else renting it and / or starting a new restaurant.

The same holds true re: Satara in Simpson Bay, which closed many months ago. When we hear anything, we'll let you know, as always.

---

## 21. What Credit Cards Should You Use / Not Use in SXM?

Most US credit cards add an international transaction fee of 2% to 3% to everything you spend in SXM. Bank of America and Scotia Bank have a marketing agreement where you can use the debit cards of each at the other's ATMs – which means no-fee cash withdrawals. To us, that's a great alternative to using fee-soaking credit cards from other banks.

Remember, too, that Travelers' Checks are increasingly not accepted in SXM. A few merchant banks won't take them from merchants, so the merchants are not accepting them, as we previously reported. That is not a valid alternative.

---

## 22. Expect Lots of Politics: Parliamentary Elections Coming August 29

Expect lots of political signs across the Dutch Side and lots of radio and newspaper ads. The police chief of the Dutch Side ordered politicians to remove signs from roundabouts, where they were obstructing visibility. Expect them everywhere else, though....

---

## 23. Dutch Side Police Arrest Nine on Scooters

Most tourists dislike the scooter rats with unregistered vehicles and unwise driving habits. The Dutch Side police knew a bunch were coming from the French Side, and it trapped them, arrested them, and seized their bikes. More:

<http://www.todaysxm.com/2014/07/15/police-arrest-nine-scooter-riders/>

---

## 24. Warning About Seat Belts, Drinking, and Cell Phone Use While Driving

For years, the French Side has strictly enforced its seat belt, anti drinking/driving, and anti cell-phone laws. But now, the Dutch Side government is stepping up its enforcement. Both governments are conducting "controls" which stop cars and issue on-the-spot penalties for violations. The penalties can be severe, so be careful out there.

---

## 25. Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna

We haven't spoken about Vesna Taverna for several months so -- now is the time.

Vesna, located in Simpson Bay on the lagoon side of Airport Road about 200 yards north of the drawbridge, serves American, French, and Greek cuisine. Vesna is the owner along with Yannick, her husband and the chef. Vesna is Greek and Macedonian; Greek food is served daily but Greek night, with all kinds of specials, is extraordinary: [http://www.vesnataaverna.com/greek\\_night.htm](http://www.vesnataaverna.com/greek_night.htm)

Friday night is yet another special night at Vesna: [http://www.vesnataaverna.com/friday\\_night.htm](http://www.vesnataaverna.com/friday_night.htm)

And if you do nothing else, look here: <http://www.vesnataaverna.com/gallery.htm>

Go for breakfast or lunch any day and dinner Wednesday through Saturday; reservations suggested. See their site for more. Low season night openings may be limited.

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.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com) (featured 6/28/14)  
Spiga, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 7/14/14)  
Fusion, [www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com](http://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](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 6/23/14)  
Stone Restaurant, [www.thestonerestaurant.com](http://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 6/28/14)  
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/28/14)  
Pineapple Pete, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://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](http://www.jimboscafe.com)  
Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 3/31/14)  
Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 7/28/14)  
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 (featured 3/17/14)

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

---

## 26. Caribbean Recipe of the Week



We've added a Drinks category today and the Almond Colada is our first drink recipe. 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.

#### Drinks

Almond Colada [http://www.quavaberry.com/recipes\\_almond.php#almond-colada](http://www.quavaberry.com/recipes_almond.php#almond-colada) 7/28/14

#### 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.caribxseafoods.com/recipes-cuban\\_rock\\_lobster\\_thermidor.html](http://www.caribxseafoods.com/recipes-cuban_rock_lobster_thermidor.html)

Almond crusted fresh fish (from the Bahamas): [https://www.bahamabreeze.com/recipes/main\\_dishes/almond\\_crusted\\_fresh\\_fish.asp](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-932> 7/14/14

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>

---

## 27. 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](http://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.

Still not a member? What are you waiting for? Check out membership here: [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

---

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

*JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) .*

**Want to rent or buy a week?**

*\*2014 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated every other weekday. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.*

### **Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13)**

#### **Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection:**

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

---

#### **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 --- <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 [www.rentstmaartenvillas.com](http://www.rentstmaartenvillas.com).*

---

*Villas in Paradise is your one-stop source for great St. Maarten Villa Accommodations.*

See many choices at [www.villasinparadise.com](http://www.villasinparadise.com) or call Marilyn Pulito directly at

---

*Emerald Cove Villas provides a one-of-a-kind vacation experience in Oyster Pond. See their website at [www.emeraldcovevillas.com](http://www.emeraldcovevillas.com) . Learn why \*Emerald Cove\* is the*

---

*Caribbean Days provides luxury villa accommodations throughout the Caribbean. [www.caribbeandays.com](http://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.*

*[www.villajourneys.com](http://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 [www.oysterbayview.com](http://www.oysterbayview.com)*

---

*Club Fantastico, [www.clubfantastico.net](http://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\**

---

*Summit Resort Hotel, atop a cliff in Cupecoy, is a favorite. See why; check out [www.thesummitresort.com](http://www.thesummitresort.com)*

---

## **Shopping: (Updated**

*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. [www.dkgemsint.com](http://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. [www.zhaveri.com](http://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 [www.legrandmarche.net](http://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](http://www.tropical-tropicana.com) -- reserve at [reservations@tropical-tropicana.com](mailto:reservations@tropical-tropicana.com)

Unique Car Rental: [www.uniquecarrentalsxm.com](http://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://everythingxml.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxml.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) to learn more.

#### **Restaurants:**

Detailed descriptions of many restaurants are at <http://everythingxml.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/jmbxm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbxm) . 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

## CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select \*St. Maarten Weekly News\* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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

### LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2014. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. \*Everything St. Maarten\* and \*Everything St. Martin\* are service marks of JMB Communications. \*JMB Communications\* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

To see the JMB Communications privacy policy, visit [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml)

7/28/14 #952 7/28/14 800A EDT \*Late Edition\* 7.14

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

Copyright , JMB Communications, 2014. World rights reserved.





