

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

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August  
4, 2014

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

#953

### *Weekly SXM News and Comments*

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

### Important Note:

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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

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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 #953 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:

- *Latest News on Tropical Storm Bertha*
- *Bistro Nu, Marigot, Has New Everything (Including New Owners)*
- *The Bizarre Story of Dunes Casino at Caravanserai Resort...*
- *...Stopping the Auction of Caravanserai Resort -- What Dunes Casino is Doing, and Why*
- *How To Advertise Your SXM Timeshare For Rent or For Sale on Our Website*

- *Club Med Furthering its SXM Location Due Diligence*
- *30-Second SXM TV Spot Now Posted on Everything SXM Facebook Page*
- *Reminder About Gendarmerie Road "Controls"*
- *Mammoth Four-Engine USAF Boeing C17 Globemaster III Jet Rescues USCG Helicopter At PJIA*
- *Think SXM Souvenirs for Holiday Presents -- But Do The Shopping Now*

**22 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** 12/20/2014 12/27/2014 Week 51 Royal Islander Club La Plage 2 Bdrm 2 bathroom Antillean suite sleeps 6 max. Gorgeous outdoor pool and world famous Maho Beach out your back door. Complex has numerous quality restaurants, night club, casino, retail stores & food market within a 5 minute walk. Rental car not necessary as local bus makes frequent stops in front of complex. \$1,700 Ed 781-953-6799 [edmisiph@comcast.net](mailto:edmisiph@comcast.net)

**RENTAL** 12/27/2014 01/03/2015 Week 52 Simpson Bay Resort Newly-renovated, One bedroom, sleeps 4, full kitchen, one bathroom on third floor of Beaumontia building, B314, with a great view. Overlooking Simpson Bay with view of incoming/outgoing yachts. Private pool area, laundry facilities in building. Short walk to beaches. Casino, piano bar, convenience store, supermarket and restaurants within walking distance. Great views from balcony. Great place to relax with many amenities on site. \$1,200 Paula 973-376-8391 [paular2064@aol.com](mailto:paular2064@aol.com)

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

**SALE** 12/20/2014 01/03/2015 week 51, 52. Ocean front on Little Bay. 2 bedrooms (king and double), 2 full bathrooms, sleeps 6. Spectacular ocean views. Daily maid service, great staff and good maintenance. On site amenities- convenience store, car rental, activities coordinator, pool, book swap, video rental, wifi access and The Gingerbread Cafe Restaurant. See pictures at [www.belairbeach.com](http://www.belairbeach.com) and <http://s1223.photobucket.com/user/andygough44/library/BelAir?sort=4&page=1> Week 53 falls every 6th year, next week 53 commences 31 Dec 2016.

\$6,000 per week, 51 & 52 Maintenance paid 2014. Andy Gough 607 426 2516 [gough\\_andy@yahoo.com](mailto:gough_andy@yahoo.com)

One or Two-Week **SALE** -- January 24 to January 31, 2015 (week 4) and/or January 31 to February 7, 2015 (week 5) in the same unit -- Why stay home and freeze every winter? Exceptional cliff-top unit 4B at Summit Resort Hotel offers breathtaking unobstructed panoramic views of the northern lagoon, lowlands, Marigot, even Creole Rock and Anguilla from a central convenient location in Cupecoy. Gated resort has a restaurant and friendly bar on the pool deck with phenomenal lagoon views and beautifully landscaped grounds. Many beaches and restaurants are nearby... Beaches: Cupecoy, Mullet Bay, Baie Longue, Rouge, Maho, Simpson Bay. Restaurants: Temptation, FIG, La Gondola, and many others. Breezy recently renovated unit has a king size bed, stove, refrigerator, microwave, cable TV, free wired and wireless internet, privacy and serenity. Want a quiet midnight swim? Pool is open all night. Resort and unit photos available upon request. Asking only \$5K/week or \$9500 for both weeks -- negotiable. If you want, you can rent both units now to try the experience and if you buy them within one week of staying for the rental, we'll deduct half the cost of the rental from the sale price of the weeks. Jeff, 508-747-8281 or [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@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**

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_205834172765083](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083)

**Search the *SXM Weekly News Archives*:**

***Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format (New):***

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](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:**

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20. Restaurant of the Week:
21. Caribbean Recipe of the Week
22. 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.**

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## **Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare**

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## **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](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](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) .

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## **All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***

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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. Latest News on Tropical Storm Bertha**

Thankfully, tropical storm Bertha is not going to give St. Maarten her worst. The storm was crossing the central Leeward Islands on Friday, and was forecast to head for the US Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. Its effects in St. Maarten on Friday night and Saturday were forecast to be heavy rain, high winds possibly to tropical storm strength, and some thunderstorms.

This time of year, the island is always prepared for hurricanes. This storm was expected to cause some street flooding and possibly other minor damage, but nothing compared to what effects could be expected were this a potent hurricane.

All in all, as of Friday afternoon when this article was written, the news seemed to be good. Once again, meteorologist Rob Lightbown's forecast was right on the money. For more, see [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com).

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#### **2. Getting It From the Source: Meteorological Service of St. Maarten**

If you want to keep in touch directly with forecasts from country St. Maarten, you can view them here:

<http://www.meteosxm.com/weather/forecast/>

This is also another very good source: <http://www.meteotropicale.com/>

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#### **3. Phoenix Air, New Interisland Carrier, Promotes Its Services**

Phoenix air is not from Phoenix, Arizona. It's from St. Kitts. Why they call themselves Phoenix air is beyond us, especially since the mythical Phoenix rose from the ashes — not a good analogy for an airline these days.

The carrier serves a number of Caribbean islands and will be expanding to St. Maarten later this year. It has mostly small aircraft plus one 737 which apparently it plans to use on flights to either New York or Miami or both, although it has applied for routes to neither city.

It vows quality, but so do many airlines; the trick is in delivering on those promises. More: <http://tinyurl.com/lwzv2r7> and <http://tinyurl.com/oj2ckvu>. One word of caution before you rush out to buy tickets: the airline is not the least bit cheap, and in prose written about it we have never seen the words low-cost or discount.

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#### 4. Panama's Copa Airlines To Have Five Weekly Flights to SXM, Up from Two

As a tourist destination, Panama has been growing quickly. In recent years, its airline, Copa Airlines, has added a number of US destination cities. Panama City also acts as a hub through which Copa flights from South America can connect with its flights to St. Maarten, which means the airline feeds the island during the summer, which is winter in South America. St. Maarten needs that because right now, most of its business comes during the (real) winter from North America.

Now the airline says starting this fall, it will be increasing its service from Panama City to St. Maarten from 2 to 5 flights per week. If you've thought of visiting Panama, you may now be able to fly there from St. Maarten as your St. Maarten vacation ends, and see what you think of it. We've talked to a few folks who have gone and virtually all of them said there is no comparison with St. Maarten. Copa flies to a number of US cities from Panama City.

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

#### 5. Club Med Furthering its SXM Location Due Diligence

Club Med last week -- considering locating a new resort in St. Maarten or St. Martin (or in St. Barths or Anguilla) -- spent a lot of time in SXM checking out in detail several possible locations.

The fact that a big Club Med will locate either on or near SXM is a huge deal for the island since its only major airport, Princess Juliana, will be the principal point of arrival for the hotel's guests who will be arriving principally from North America and Europe.

The hotel is expected to have about 400 rooms, take up about 500 feet of frontage on the ocean, and will be opening in 2018 or after. We've contacted the president of Club Med and hope to have timely updates as this process unfolds.

In a press interview, the CEO said St. Maarten does offer huge advantages over neighboring islands because of both its infrastructure and its airport, a major regional hub.

As always, we'll keep you posted.



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## 6. 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.

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## 7. Having Sold Radisson Blu SXM, Radisson Now Has Aruba Property Up for Sale

We saw something Friday morning which not only got our attention, but also made us wonder what exactly is happening with the Radisson chain of hotels. As you recall, the former Radisson Blu St. Martin resort, which for years was a Habitation property, was sold by Radisson this year to Riu Plaza hotels. That ownership change became effective a couple of months ago. The resort never did make any money, owing largely to the global economy collapse and the disparity between the US dollar and the Euro -- and the fact that Radisson spent close to \$100-million upgrading the place.

But we were surprised to learn that Radisson now has its Aruba hotel and casino up for sale. That was a surprise because the economy is doing well and Aruba appears to be doing well too. Not quite sure why this is being sold during an improving economy, but we assume Radisson has its reasons.

### **SECTION 3: 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 SkyMed.***

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/xsm/about\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/xsm/about_xsm/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.

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**8. 30-Second SXM TV Spot Now Posted on <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten> . . .**

A few years ago, the Dutch side government produced two television spots — one 30 seconds long, and the other, a full minute. Both of them showed a lot of St. Maarten visuals, upbeat music, and the kind of fun that experienced St. Maarten tourists love.

Click the link above to see the 30-second spot. You may have to scroll a bit but it's there. See next story.

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

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Get a [Website That Works](#) for your business or professional practice from JMB, a *seasoned 24 year-old marketing company*:

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

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## 9. ... and a 60-Second Spot Tugs at You Even More:

In addition to the 30-second spot we told you about in the previous story, the Dutch side government also produced a 60-second that's even better. Here it is: <https://vimeo.com/6826246>.

If you're not familiar with Vimeo, it is vaguely similar to YouTube but simpler and somewhat less restrictive.

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## 10. Bistro Nu, Marigot, Has New Everything (Including New Owners)

If you are one of the many tourists who visit Bistro Nu on the French side every year, you are in for a surprise: the restaurant has changed hands and its maître d' has retired.

For a brief time, the restaurant was open only at lunch. Now, however, we are hearing that it has reopened at dinner with a new, more condensed menu, modernized decor, and a new staff.

Initial reviews from a few people who have visited the restaurant say that both the service and food are excellent, although we've heard no comparisons to what was previously served here.

If you're a fan of the restaurant, you might want to contact us at [JMBweb@JMBcommunications.com](mailto:JMBweb@JMBcommunications.com) with e-mail contact information for the owners, since we'd certainly like to get in touch.

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## 11. The Bizarre Story of Dunes Casino at Caravanserai Resort...

The Bank of Nova Scotia, known on SXM as Scotia bank, is planning to auction off Caravanserai resort including the Dunes casino on August 13, as we previously reported.

Various things have happened on the island which make Francesco Corallo, owner of Atlantis casino and several others, believe he owns Dunes casino and it is excluded from the sale. In fact, Mr. Corallo is going to court to stop any attempt at auctioning off Caravanserai.

The question about the ownership is the subject of this story: <http://tinyurl.com/l4rk9n2> See next story.

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## 12. ...Stopping the Auction of Caravanserai Resort -- What Dunes Casino is Doing, and Why

As we mentioned in the previous story, there are now efforts underway to stop the auction of Caravanserai resort by the people who think they own the Dunes casino, which is (or may not be) part of the auction. Confused yet? Join the club. This article may help clear your confusion:

<http://tinyurl.com/pfxz8sc>

The auction is August 13, if it happens. We'll keep you posted.

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## 13. SXM Democratic Party Pushing for More Open Government

Although the government of St. Maarten has often been accused of operating under a cloak of secrecy (unlike the open meeting laws in effect in many states here in the USA), one party, the St. Maarten Democratic Party, is using it as a campaign issue. We're sure most other parties agree with the idea, at least publicly, although it is an open question about who will actually enact transparency legislation if elected.

We thought you would find this article of interest: <http://tinyurl.com/omxw5qt>

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## 14. Emil Lee, Key Tourism Figure, Makes Government Openness a Campaign Focal Point

Emil Lee told us that he has long been interested in politics, but this marks the first time in our memory that he is running for the St. Maarten Parliament on the Democratic Party ticket. Mr. Lee has been in charge of both local and regional tourism bodies and is the chief honcho at the Princess Heights boutique luxury suites resort in Dawn beach, the tall building on the Hill above the southern part of the beach.

The focal point of his campaign is openness. You can see a little more here: <https://www.facebook.com/emilleesxm> .

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## 15. Taking Kids to SXM? Make Sure They Have Current Passports, Too

The bad news is that summer is waning fast — only a few more weeks until Labor Day. In the US, Halloween candy has already hit the shelves, and we have zero doubt that Christmas stuff will be on the shelves in some stores next month. (That would be September, folks.)

We also know that thousands of you will be going to St. Maarten in the next several weeks, some of you with kids. This is just a reminder to check their passports (yes, they do need passports) to be sure they are current and not about to expire. If you need it, local passport offices do have expedited service — at a cost. You also more than likely would have to go to an actual passport office, and not an agent like the US Post Office. You do not want to be surprised when you get to the airport with invalid passports and are told to go home.

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## 16. Reminder About Gendarmerie Road "Controls"

We repeated a warning last week advising you to be sure to buckle your seatbelts, avoid using your cell phone, and avoid drinking and driving, particularly on the French side of the island, where gendarmes are out in force around-the-clock and fines are heavy. The Dutch side is stepping up its controls as well, so it's advisable to follow this advice on both sides of the island.

Controls can occur anywhere. When we were on the island of February, we saw gendarmes several times on the dirt road exiting Orient beach near the Butterfly Farm. We've read reports which say they are still in that area regularly, but we've seen them all over the French side and of course on the Dutch side as well.

Be careful out there.

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## 17. Mammoth Four-Engine USAF Boeing C17 Globemaster III Jet Rescues USCG Helicopter At PJIA

Although it isn't the biggest transport aircraft in the U.S. Air Force's fleet, the big four engine C-17 from Boeing, the Globemaster III, still dwarfs commercial airliners. When a C-17 landed at Princess Juliana airport last week, it got a lot of attention. It was there to pick up a US Coast Guard helicopter. The bright red helicopter easily fit into the body of the C-17.

We posted a video of the big jet leaving Princess Juliana. You'll find the video on our everything St. Maarten page on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten](http://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten). Here's another video of its departure: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiB2TgJVnjE>

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## 18. Think SXM Souvenirs for Holiday Presents -- But Do The Shopping Now

We know you love St. Maarten, or you wouldn't be one of the 210,000 people who spend time reading this newsletter every week (for which we are very grateful). So we have a question for you: what would you think of the idea of giving quality St. Maarten souvenirs as Christmas or Hanukkah presents this year?

We know it's early, but we discovered we have a small abundance of St. Maarten souvenirs in our warehouse. They consist of T-shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops, St. Maarten hats, bikini shaped notepads, polo shirts, grilling aprons, drink coozies, insulated drink carriers, our SXM euro ovals, and a few other things.

To clean out the warehouse, we are offering a big medium size priority mail box stuffed with St. Maarten souvenirs to our readers for just \$39.99 including shipping. Sorry, at this cost we can only ship to addresses within the United States including Alaska and Hawaii. When you order, you can select male, female, and size. We just discovered quite a few 2XL sweatshirts for both men and women although you will not find 2XL in the size list on our online order form. If you want 2XL, all you need do is tell us in the comments section of the PayPal order form. It's easy. We have already shipped the vast majority of orders received so far and we still have quite a number of great souvenirs left, most of them with our SXM euro oval logo. These won't last forever and they make great holiday gifts, so act quickly. Go here for more info or to order:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/low\\_fares/st-maarten-st-martin-xsm-grab-bags.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/low_fares/st-maarten-st-martin-xsm-grab-bags.shtml)

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## 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.

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## 20. Restaurant of the Week: Daniel's By The Sea

The nighttime incarnation of Mr. Busby's beach bar, Daniel's by the Sea near the northern end of Dawn beach next to Oyster Bay Beach Resort is an outstanding Italian restaurant and what may be the best location on the island to spend a summer evening.

Cared for by nearly constant tradewinds day and night, the restaurant offers a huge selection of your favorite Italian dishes, with specials offered every night.

We urge you to look especially closely to appetizers and desserts, both of which are very special here. You can get shrimp, crab, or lobster salad, too – all fresh and delicious. There are succulent steaks, seafood including fresh lobster from their own pool and sometimes fish delicacies you may not see elsewhere, homemade fettuccine of course, and vegetarian selections. It is late afternoon on Friday and it is torture to write this from Boston, but we will be back in St. Maarten soon enough to savor the wonderful food from Daniel's.

Two other notes. First, next door is Island Pizza, owned by the same folks; if you like, you can have pizza for dinner with virtually any topping you desire. And second, this is one restaurant that doesn't take a break. Though a couple of employees at a time will take summer vacation, the restaurant never closes — it's open seven days a week 52 weeks a year. You've got to love that kind of dedication.

BTW our friend Erich Kranz lists a number of seasonal restaurant closings here: <http://www.sxm-restaurants.com/closings.html>

Both Daniel's by the Sea and Mr. Busby's beach bar were recipients this year of our everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence. This restaurant will become one of your favorite habits on the island.

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 8/4/14)

**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.

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## 21. Caribbean Recipe of the Week

How about Mango Lime Sorbet for dessert? It's "yummlly" -- see desserts, below.

### Drinks

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

### Appetizers:

Caribbean Plantain Chips <http://www.yummlly.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:

Mango Lime Sorbet <http://www.yummly.com/recipe/Mango-Lime-Sorbet-607662?columns=6&position=3%2F55> 8/4/14

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>

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## 22. Reserve Your Free Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now

A relaxing, informative lagoon sunset sail is one of our long-time JMB Website Supporters member benefits. Sunset sails fill up fast -- we have 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)

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### 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated every other weekday. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

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### Travel Arrangements & Accommodations:

For The Best Prices On Individual and Group Tours to St. Maarten & St. Martin, as well as stays at B&Bs, condos, hotels, and villas, visit our sponsor: **Sandy Molloy at SXM Travel Specialists** --- <http://www.stmartin-stmaartentravelspecialists.com> 704-567-6661

Rent **St. Maarten Villas** is the website of Villalady Bobby Valins, showcasing her villas in Burgeaux Bay and in Grand Case. See her site at [www.rentstmaartenvillas.com](http://www.rentstmaartenvillas.com).

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

**Caribbean Days** provides luxury villa accommodations throughout the Caribbean. See [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.  
See [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 at [www.oysterbayview.com](http://www.oysterbayview.com)

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**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\* vacation.

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

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**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](http://www.zhaveri.com) .

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### 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](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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) to learn more.

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Detailed descriptions of many restaurants are at <http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/restaurants/index.shtml>

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

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Bookmark our SXM site and visit us often: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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