



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

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

Weekly Tourist-Oriented News & Comments from SXM

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This format is easily readable on most mobile devices; scroll down for this week's news.

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http://everythingxm.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 #961 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:

-- More Discounts Than Ever Coming to JMB Website Supporters Members ---- Last Shot To Beat The Price Increase on JMB Website Supporters New Memberships, Renewals, & Reinstatements (Ends Columbus Day Night)

-- Prive, Avantika, New York Brasserie, Rima's Beachwear, & Mickey's Car Rental To Offer Discounts to JMB Members

-- Completely New Travel Benefit Gives JMB Members & Weekly News Readers Free Access To Lowest-Cost Airfares -- And Much More

-- Car Slams Into Toppers & Marty's Gyros, Fire Erupts; No One Hurt; Melanie Daboul Tells The Story

-- SXM Featured on Travel Channel's New "Living in Paradise" Series; Starts October 8

-- Coalition Government Likely To Go Away; Heyliger In The Wings

-- Harbor, Airport Likely To Get Casino Licenses

-- Going to Club Orient Beach? Here's Where to Park -- and Why

-- Both Sides of SXM Go To War Against Guns

-- Rima is Alive and Well, Selling on the Web

-- Only \$14/day Gets You Short-Term Family Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed

-- Plus many more new stories

26 new stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week (Three):

RENTAL 01/18/2015 01/25/2015 Week 3 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Newly renovated sleep 2 studio in the front B building poolside. Convenient to pool bar, tennis courts, beach, restaurants and shopping. \$950.00 Debbie 330-503-1410 dmorri3035@gmail.com

Exceptional Accommodations at Diamond Flamingo Beach

RENTAL 1/24/2015 1/31/2015 Week 4 Diamond Flamingo Beach Resort Unit 3202-A. Exceptional accommodations located on the second floor in the Hillside Villas. Sleeps 2/4. Large bedroom with King bed, comfortable sleeper sofa in living room, fully equipped galley kitchen (stove, microwave, full size fridge, blender, coffee-maker, lots of cabinets, sink), in room Washer/Dryer, patio with garden view (table with chairs as well as a chaise lounge), free Wi-Fi, 2 TVs, DVD player. Resort has midweek maid service, 2 beaches, large infinity pool, shuffleboard, poolside activities, lighted tennis courts, and Toppers by the Sea Restaurant. Walk to Hollywood Casino, Bon Appetit French Bakery and Bistro, Hideaway Restaurant at La Vista, Stone Restaurant, Peli Deli mini-mart, and gift shops. Free parking available on premises. Enjoy the Friendly Island in your own personal paradise! \$1400 plus \$50 Resort Fee Kevin: 419-238-0344 klaing7240@aol.com Posted 9/2014.

RENTAL 1/31/15 to 2/7/15 (week 5) Simpson Bay Resort Marina 207, a sleep-four studio overlooking both the Marina pool and Pelican beach (a short walk to Marina Residences, next door). Many beaches, great restaurants, piano bar (The Red Piano), more nightlife, casinos, a Deli, and other shops and nearby. A clothing optional beach is about two miles away. Unit features stove, microwave, cable TV, WiFi is on site, sleeps four, very convenient. \$1099. This unit is also for sale at just \$2499! Timeshare tax (\$50) is renter's responsibility. Please contact Susan at (508) 747-8281 or email susan@jmbcommunications.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week (Now Two):

SALE: 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, min-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 \$4499 to buy (negotiable). 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 Susan susan@jmbcommunications.com

SALE 02/14/2015 02/21/2015 Seven 7 Divi Little Bay A non mandatory maintenance fee (no fee if not used for contract week) is available for this unit. Studio deluxe unit separate bedroom,bathroom,kitchen,living room with queen sofa bed and water view of great bay and Phillipsburg from large lanai. Second floor unit 711 which was up-graded Jan 2009. 21 weeks left on contract with 5 weeks accelerated usage. Sale price @5200.00 Paul 401-219-6243 paulvmcgraw@yahoo.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our Facebook "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Page:



<https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083

Search the *SXM Weekly News* Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

1. Cape Verde Hurricane Season Ends -- But It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over on Nov. 30
2. Ottawa To Get Weekly Nonstops to SXM Starting December 15
3. Fall Weather in SXM

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

4. Heavy Action on Timeshare Reservations
5. Holiday Villas at a Premium

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

-- JMB Membership Prices Change Columbus Day: Join Now For The Most Discounts & The Lowest Prices

-- Completely New Travel Benefit Gives JMB Members & Weekly News Readers Free Access To Lowest-Cost Airfares -- And Much More

-- Prive, Avantika To Offer Discounts to JMB Members

Go Nowhere Without SkyMed MedEvac Protection -- About \$1.25/day Protects You For a Full-Year

6. Completely New Travel Benefit Gives JMB Members Free Access To Lowest-Cost Airfares -- And Much More
7. Prive, Avantika, Brasserie New York To Offer Discounts to JMB Members
8. Car Slams Into Toppers & Marty's Gyros, Fire Erupts; No One Hurt
9. Harbor, Airport Likely To Get Casino Licenses
10. Dutch Side Coalition Apparently To Be Replaced by One-Party Government
11. Netherlands Putting St. Maarten Under a Microscope -- And Getting More Involved
12. Gendarmes Increase Presence at Le Galion
13. SXM Featured on Travel Channel's New "Living in Paradise Series"; Starts October 8
14. Going to Club Orient Beach? Here's Where to Park -- and Why
15. Police Seizing Illegal Firearms
16. Both Sides of SXM Go To War Against Guns
17. Lesley Elvis Bruce Recovering from Neck Surgery
18. Thanks to The Daughter of Legendary Soul Artist James Brown, "Mighty Dow" Appears in Augusta Partnership Children's Week
19. Yom Kippur Services Available in St. Maarten
20. Rima is Alive and Well -- Selling on the Web (Free Shipping Over \$40)

21. Mickey's Car Rental Opening for Business
22. Sargasso Seaweed Still Sits Seaside
23. World Poker Tour To Casino Royale Early in November
24. You're Invited To Post Your Favorite SXM Pictures on Our Facebook Site

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

Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

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

- A. About Low Airfares We Post On The *Secret Site*
- B. All the Answers for JWS members: Just Click the Link
- C. Members: Why Check Airfares Daily?
- D. Members: Password Recovery Info
- E. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads

Section Five: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 12/17/13)

How To Get a GROWING LIST of 200+ Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other

durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

Contact Us:

[Revised 12/17/13]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at support@jmbcommunications.com.

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including *Low Airfare Bulletins*) read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Cape Verde Hurricane Season Ends -- But It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over on Nov. 30

The Cape Verde hurricane season ended as September closed. It bears that name because storms that could potentially affect St. Maarten form there in August and especially in September. After that, conditions in the tropical Atlantic tend to become hostile to storm development.

Bear in mind, however, that hurricane season itself does not end until November 30. From now until then, cyclogenesis -- the formation of hurricanes -- can occur in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, and off the southeastern coast of the US. Also bear in mind that some serious storms in the past have formed during this period and wreaked havoc in St. Maarten.

The good news is that this has been a mild year for hurricanes so far and forecasters tend to believe it will stay that way. On the other hand it

only takes one storm to ruin a season.

As has been the case this entire hurricane season, we will continue to post hurricane information on our everything St. Maarten Facebook page. We also post a number of other items of interest there so if you haven't liked the page yet, be our guest. Here's the link:



2. Ottawa To Get Weekly Nonstops to SXM Starting December 15

Canada's Sun Wing airlines, which already operates a few flights to St. Maarten, has a new one this winter: weekly nonstops from Ottawa Ontario to the island, which will make it far more convenient for many residents of Ontario to reach SXM. Check the Sun Wing website for specifics and reservations.

Bear in mind, of course, that JetBlue Airways, which has nonstops from both New York and Boston, flies out of Burlington Vermont and Buffalo New York, both of which are near population centers in Ontario and Québec. They didn't pick those locations out of the "blue" -- in part, they picked them because of their proximity to Canada and in consideration of high Canadian airfares.

See story #6 for very important information about airfare reservations.

3. Fall Weather in SXM

As we've mentioned before, this is the rainy season in St. Maarten. But rainy is relative – it just means that showers may last a bit longer and there may be an occasional tropical wave, though the frequency of waves diminishes the farther into the year we progress.

In just two months, it will be December, home of the famous December winds — and Christmas worms. The winds make some northeastern facing beaches quite windy, but the cure to that is to spend more time in the water.

At home, of course, the weather is starting to get colder. If you haven't made your SXM reservations yet, now is the time. Take a close look at the first article in section 3 of this newsletter for a great new way to get low-cost airfares.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

4. Heavy Action on Timeshare Reservations

As we've mentioned in recent editions, high season 2014 – 2015 appears poised to be a possible recordbreaker. There already has been heavy action in the timeshare rental area — more than we have seen at this time of year than in the past. Again, if you have not made reservations yet, now is the time; hundreds of timeshares are available for rental -- see www.everythingSXM.com and click on our timeshare rentals page.

5. Holiday Villas at a Premium

The busiest week of the year on St. Maarten is Christmas week, which tends to be even busier than the Heineken Regatta. The island is packed.

If you're considering a villa vacation during Christmas week, bear two things in mind: first, you have a lot of competition; second, it's the busiest week of the year; and third, villas are at about their highest prices of the year. If you want a villa, go for it, but know what you're getting into. Check our accommodations page on www.everythingSXM.com for suggested sources of villa rentals.

SECTION 3: Island

[Just \\$59/month Gets You Global SkyMed Medevac Protection: Go Nowhere Without It](#)

JMB Membership Prices Increase 11:59 pm on Columbus Day 10/13; Your Last Shot To Get The Lowest Prices On The Biggest, Best SXM Discount Package: Get 200+ Discounts Across SXM Now

The cost of JMB Website Supporters new, renewal, and reinstated memberships increases October right after Columbus Day (yes, we delayed it for one final week). Even our lowest-priced memberships, those with the longest terms, will be increasing to meet rising costs.

Beat the price increase by joining, renewing, or reinstating your JMB Website Supporters membership today. You'll receive about 200 discounts across the island including sizable jewelry gift cards, half-off members-only lagoon sunset cruises, discounts at dozens of restaurants, plus many activities, art, shopping, and other discounts on both sides of the island.

Other discount programs come and go, but JMB Website Supporters grows and grows.

And it's just \$59 for one year (new memberships) but **much less per year** when you buy multiyear memberships. Low prices for renewals and reinstatements, too.

New memberships: Learn more here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Your JMB membership keeps these newsletters coming every week and gives you tons of discounts across SXM.

Reinstate a former membership: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Renew your current JMB membership at the Membership Renewal Center on the members-only [Secret Website](#).

6. Completely New Travel Benefit Gives You Free Access To Lowest-Cost Airfares -- And Much More

This is the single biggest piece of membership news we've had in the past 12 years: JMB Website Supporters now gives you access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on packages not just to the Caribbean, but worldwide.

Retail travel sites — the ones whose names you know very well — are heavily regulated. But private travel clubs like this, which normally charge members prices for membership/admission, are regulated differently and consequently, can offer much better pricing.

The organization providing these travel benefits has been traveling under the radar for 25 years and is only now making its travel reservations prowess publicly known. It's SkyMed Travel Club and it is entirely separate from the SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service we've been recommending to you since shortly after the millennium.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have been testing it for the past few weeks and have found the pricing to be extraordinary — even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a tourism phenomenon throughout Europe and are quickly gaining popularity here in the US.

And normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, and during a brief introductory period for everyone else, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Exclusively through us, you get access to a world-class global ticketing mechanism without paying one cent to get in the door.

This is a new benefit for JMB members. During this introduction, everyone can join by going to www.SkyMedtravelclub.com, clicking the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and providing the requested information. It's very important to complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — entering that code is what ensures that you pay nothing to be a member of the SkyMed Travel Club. If you fail to enter that code, you will not gain free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing.

Do join — you will not be disappointed.

7. Prive, Avantika, New York Brasserie, and Rima's Beach World Online To Offer Discounts to JMB Members

Anish Chugani's Prive night club, voted tops on the island, will soon be offering discounts to JMB Website Supporters members — one of several new discounts and benefits to be formally introduced this fall.

Also joining us in the next few weeks will be the completely new Avantika Thai restaurant at Puerta del Sol opposite Toppers in Simpson Bay — in the area formerly occupied by Mooi.

Next, the renowned New York Brasserie at Porto Cupecoy will join us as well. Exquisite dining in a gorgeous Mediterranean setting.

Last but not least, Rima's Beach World (see story #20) is alive and well — and will soon offer our members a neat discount.

More news on all these new benefits, and more, will be coming to JMB members soon. Watch your email over the next few weeks for details on all our new benefits.

8. Car Slams Into Toppers & Marty's Gyros, Fire Erupts; No One Hurt

When Melanie Daboul's telephone rang in the middle of the night last week, she had no idea what to expect. Looking at the clock, she knew that the restaurant had closed only a short time before, when a contingent of Dutch Marines who were relaxing headed back to their barracks. What she learned was startling: a car had gone out of control on Welfare Road, slammed into her sign demolishing it, then slammed directly into the building, wrecking outside chairs, severely rearranging Topper's office, damaging the adjacent Marty's gyros restaurant — and then the car caught fire.

As if that weren't bad enough, the car severed some GEBE water pipes which then spewed a lot of water through the messed up restaurant.

The fire was quickly put out by the St. Maarten fire department and damage was mainly confined to the sign, the furniture around the exterior of

the building, and Topper's office. The very good news was that no one was injured, including the two or more young ladies who were in the car that went off the road. They later apologized to Melanie.

For Topper's customers the news is even better: the restaurant was quickly cleaned up, furniture replaced, and it was open as usual the following day. A new sign is being ordered.

We have long recommended Toppers and its sister restaurant, Toppers by the Sea in the Flamingo resort. Definitely plan to visit both on your next trip for some truly great home cooking.

And Toppers is the #1 place to be on Thanksgiving....

9. Harbor, Airport Likely To Get Casino Licenses

If the Dutch side allows slot machines at various locations, it stands to reason that should make the use of slots convenient for people who might not otherwise be exposed to them. On impulse, air travelers might very well be tempted to use slot machines that could well appear in the departure lounge at the Princess Juliana airport.

Not all cruise passengers get off the ship; a number stay on board. Were there casino gambling available right at the harbor, it would be easy for those people to try it out without having to venture far from port.

Of course, other businesses won't like this idea since it could well siphon off funds that could otherwise be spent in their establishments. But the bottom line is that anything that enhances the ability of the government to function without further raising turnover taxes is a good idea, in our opinion. Any turnover tax increase – and we know such an increase is being considered within government circles — could have a very chilling effect on the island's tourist oriented economy, a bad idea. We're not big fans of casinos, but this does sound to us like smart marketing.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/mv&vdop>

10. Dutch Side Coalition Apparently To Be Replaced by One-Party Government

Over the last few weeks, we told you that an assortment of political parties had banded together after the recent parliamentary elections to form a coalition government. Together, these disparate parties had received votes for one more member of Parliament than Theo Heyliger, the island's most popular politician who had received a plurality of the popular vote. Although Heyliger was the top individual vote-getter, he was outflanked --

and others formed a coalition to keep him out of power.

It appears that did not last. As we mentioned in previous articles, such a coalition involving many individuals where only one seat determined the majority was tenuous; the coalition could collapse if one person changed his or her mind.

That has happened, apparently, and it looks like Mr. Heyliger is likely to take over after the vetting process has completed.

Across the pond in the Netherlands, the Dutch Parliament at the Hague is hearing what appears to be a constant barrage of insults hurled at St. Maarten. We won't go into details, but they don't seem to be enthralled by the idea of Mr. Heyliger potentially becoming prime minister in a one-party government. (Politics; don't you love it?) But there is also much discontent on the island with how the Dutch treat their countrymen on the island. Some people are saying openly that they feel they are treated as inferiors who are not really Dutch. It is not known at all whether there is any thought being given to independence in the sense that the United States declared independence from Britain all those years ago. We don't think St. Maarten wants that at all. But St. Maarten also has a lot of pride and it isn't happy with what it's hearing.

As always, we'll keep listening and will keep you posted. See next story.

11. Netherlands Putting St. Maarten Under a Microscope -- And Getting More Involved

We talked about this in the previous article. Here are a few related stories that may be of interest: <http://tinyurl.com/nd5qu6j> and <http://tinyurl.com/pc6ftu5>.

12. Gendarmes Increase Presence at Le Galion

French gendarmes have had their hands full with the crime situation there, but when told there is a crime problem somewhere, they seem to be doing a significantly better job of responding.

Case in point: there have been some recent thefts of personal property from Le Galion beach, which is immediately south of Orient beach (a hike). There was also one alleged carjacking at Galion. Gendarme patrols have been increased significantly, and controls in the area have also been increased. Controls, as we reported in the past, are highway checkpoints where gendarmes check for papers, seatbelts, illegal use of cell phones, driving while drunk, weapons, and so on.

Hopefully all this will help.

13. SXM Featured on Travel Channel's New "Living in Paradise" Series; Starts October 8

This coming Wednesday, October 8, the Travel Channel debuts a new series called Living in Paradise which was taped in St. Maarten. Show time is 9 PM Eastern.

Promotional materials for the program, which were sent to us by Dino Jagtiani, chef/owner of Temptation, bill the program as an exploration of how businesspeople there work to make the most of a short high season.

The plan is to show about three episodes, and then decide whether more episodes will be broadcast. In all, 13 episodes have been shot. It all depends on getting the word out and getting lots of viewers -- so please spread the word.

We welcome you to post this in social media and e-mail it to your friends. Obviously, all of us are interested in giving it as much widespread publicity as possible. When you watch the program, you might just see a few people you know.

14. Going to Club Orient Beach? Here's Where to Park -- and Why

By far St. Martin's most popular clothing optional beach is at Club Orient on the French side. The beach is long, clean, and secure, the food is good, the drinks are cold, and the parking is guarded.

Guarded? Yes, guarded. You pay a few dollars, and you can park your car inside the gate at Club Orient and it will be watched for you.

What more can you ask for? Well, maybe no tan lines, but that's automatic at this beach.

More stories follow.

Medical Evacuation Peace-of-Mind: \$9/day Per Person or Just \$15/day Per Family Short-Term From SkyMed, the Best In The Business

Long-Term Plans as Little as \$1.25/day

(\$1.25 is approximate)

Having your own medical evacuation membership enables you to get home in a hurry when you or your spouse / partner become 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, sometimes lots 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 new 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.

Let's repeat that: The cost of SkyMed never increases solely because of your advancing age, nor is SkyMed ever canceled solely for declining health -- that's in sharp contrast to 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. 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . The cost of SkyMed is as little as \$59 monthly or just \$49 monthly if you do not require global coverage (beyond the "SkyMed universe" we described above).

For one-year or other duration memberships, buy online at www.skymed.com/jmbspecial (JMB members only) or www.skymed.com/jmbsexm (everyone else).

Five-year Free JMB Membership Extension With Ultimate Purchase: Once you've joined SkyMed through us, email 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 JMB membership extension. **Offer ends October 31, 2014.** The five-year JMB membership extension will be terminated if you cancel your SkyMed Ultimate membership before its five-year term expires.

15. Police Seizing Illegal Firearms

Some SXM business owners carry licensed pistols for protection. But other people have no permits and may be carrying weapons unlawfully. The police are pursuing the latter vigorously. More, <http://tinyurl.com/lmvlaju>

Please see next story.

16. Both Sides of SXM Go To War Against Guns

This is the most vigorous full-island effort we've ever seen. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/p4bvvm>

Please see story #15.

17. Lesley Elvis Bruce Recovering from Neck Surgery

SXM has several smaller car rental companies, and we've reported on many of them in reviews over the years. One of those companies is Kenny's car rental which is headed by Lesley Elvis Bruce. Lesley needed neck surgery recently and is recovering nicely from it; we thought all his fans would like to know.

Our long-time friend Sharon from Sharon's Cell Phone Rentals at the Royal Palm beach hotel is handling his car reservations until he returns to work. If you're a Kenny's customer contact him in the usual way and everything will be taken care of.

18. Thanks to James Brown's Daughter, "Mighty Dow" Appears in "Augusta Partnership Children's Week"

The Mighty Dow is a steel band maestro who has inspired many people. Over the years, his work has been lauded by thousands of music lovers from all over the world. We've reported on his foundation and his efforts to teach steel pan music across the island.

He was seen performing recently at Divi Little Bay by none other than the daughter of renowned soul singer James Brown. She thought about bringing down some people to see what he does, but instead, Dow offered to bring his steel pan music to the Augusta Partnership Children's Week in Augusta Georgia, which is going on now. If you're in that area, check it out.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/may427c>

19. Yom Kippur Services Available in St. Maarten

St. Maarten does have a small but active Jewish community. If you are here during Yom Kippur, you'll be interested in this, from the Chabad SXM website:

Please join us for Yom Kippur services at the Chabad Center - Fast begins 5:41 PM

Kol Nidre - 5:30 PM, Morning services - 9:30 AM, Yizkor - 11:00 AM

Evening Services/Neila - 4:30 followed by break-fast kiddush.

We would like to thank all our Holiday sponsors

If you would like to contribute please email sponsorship@jewishsxm.com

~ Contributors ~

Mr. Charlie Amsalem

Mr. Ben Amsalem

Mr. Elis Belilos

Ms. Catie Chiche & Family

Mr. Phillipe Goldman

Mr. Yonatan Goldstein

Mr. Oded Yehoshua

Ms. Nina Hayoun & Family

~ Sponsors ~

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Mr. Jeff Sochrin & Family

All of us at Chabad-Lubavitch of S. Maarten/Martin wish you and the entire Jewish people a sweet new year -- as does the staff of *SXM Weekly News*.

20. Rima is Alive and Well -- Selling on the Web (Free Shipping Over \$40)

For the thousands of readers who for many years patronized the Rima beachwear store on the pond fill in Philipsburg, which closed more than a year ago, we have news for you.

Rima is alive and well and is serving you on the web, offering free shipping on all orders over \$40.

We knew that Rima maintained a wholesale operation on the island — an innocuous place that sells lots of 10 identical items to retailers for resale. We found the store, which is inconspicuously marked, went inside, and looked around. The store was clearly not laid out for any retail business -- smallish and strictly wholesale.

No matter. The retail website, www.rimasxm.com, offers tons of merchandise at very reasonable prices — the kind of stuff you came to know when you shopped at the Rima retail store. And it, too, will soon be offering our JMB members discounts for online purchases. That discount is one of many new benefits we are about to introduce. Watch for that discount to come in the next few weeks. Also see stories 21, 6, and 7 in this issue for more new JMB member discounts. Remember prices for membership are increasing, so buy, renew, or reinstate a membership now. Details are at the beginning of this section.

21. Mickey's Car Rental Opening for Business

We told you recently that Mickey Daniel, formerly of both Hertz rent a car and Tropical – Tropicana car rental, is opening his own car rental business on the island, to be known appropriately enough as Mickey's car rental. It's website will soon be ready and when it is, we'll let you

know the address (although you can probably guess it right now).

Mickey now has an official telephone number: 721-580-2561. You can also reach him by e-mail at Mickey67@justice.com.

We will be recommending [Mickey's car rental](#) once it is fully up and running. As always, we continue to recommend both [Tropical-Tropicana.com](#) and [Unique car rental](#).

22. Sargasso Seaweed Still Sits Seaside

The appearance of Sargasso seaweed on St. Maarten hasn't abated much yet, but that should start soon. As we previously reported seaweed from the Sargasso Sea (which you may never have heard of before) sometimes comes ashore in late summer or early fall, with changing sea currents. It usually disappears within the next few weeks, although that which winds up on the beaches has to be manually cleaned. Do not expect Sargasso seaweed to still be prevalent from mid-November on, when tourists begin to return to St. Maarten in big numbers.

23. World Poker Tour To Casino Royale Early in November

Here are the details, directly from WPT: http://www.worldpokertour.com/Shared/Tournaments/Seasons/Season_XIII/WPT_Caribbean.aspx .

24. You're Invited To Post Your Favorite SXM Pictures on Our Facebook Site

Just click this link and you are good to go:



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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13)

Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection:

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

Travel Arrangements & Accommodations:

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

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

Villas in Paradise is your one-stop source for great St. Maarten Villa Accommodations.
See many choices at www.villasinparadise.com or call Marilyn Pulito directly at 508-533-1388.

Emerald Cove Villas provides a one-of-a-kind vacation experience in Oyster Pond. See their website at www.emeraldcovevillas.com . Learn why *Emerald Cove* is the name.

Caribbean Days provides luxury villa accommodations throughout the Caribbean. See www.caribbeandays.com .

Villa Journeys offers JMB readers villa accommodations (and much more) not only throughout the Caribbean, but across the USA and in Europe.

See www.villajourneys.com

Oyster Bay View Villa, overlooking Oyster Pond and Captain Oliver's Marina, delivers great accommodations near Dawn Beach, a quick ride to Orient Beach and the dozens of fine restaurants at Grand Case. See their site at www.oysterbayview.com

Club Fantastico, www.clubfantastico.net, overlooking Orient Beach, gives you fine villa-like accommodations in a totally clothing optional ambiance, inside and out. It's the perfect place for a *no tan lines* vacation.

Summit Resort Hotel, atop a cliff in Cupecoy, is a favorite. See why; check out www.thesummitresort.com

Shopping: (Updated 9/7/2013)

DK Gems on Front Street (*opposite and not far west of the historic Court House*) offers extraordinary eye-popping gems in a rainbow of exquisite settings. Not to be missed on your next trip. See www.dkgemsint.com .

Zhaveri Jewelers on Front Street opposite Little Switzerland (near the historic Courthouse) offers an incredible inventory of the finest gems

in the Caribbean. Offering the island's largest selection of elegant jewelry for men, women, and kids. Visit www.zhaveri.com .

Fine Food, Pastries, Wines/Liquors, Yacht Provisioning:

Le Grand Marche has several Dutch Side locations to conveniently serve you -- at the roundabout near the Bush road, next to Port de Plaisance off the Union Road near the French border, or their *Gourmet Marche* store in Simpson Bay. For all the details see www.legrandmarche.net .

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

Please see www.everythingsxm.com/secret .

SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 12/17/13

Returns soon.

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsxm.com/secret , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com assuming your membership is in good standing.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 9/7/13)

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Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

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