



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*

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 nearly 210,000 readers around the world...***

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



twitter

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



## Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, and Android Users

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

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

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

## Get Your Own Free Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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 #964 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:

### **-- Your Chance To Beat The Price Increase on JMB Website Supporters New Memberships, Renewals, & Reinstatements Extended -- But Only Briefly**

- *On-The-Scene Hurricane Recovery Observations From Island 92's Jeff Sochrin*
- *Rundown of Conditions Across SXM*
- *SXM Undergoing Rapid Recovery; What's Going on Where*
- *Should You Come or Cancel Your Trip?*
- *SXM Is Open for Business*
- *At Club Orient, It's Back To Normal The Day After Gonzalo Swirls Northward*
- *Orient Beach Recovery Also Faster Than Expected*
- *Damaged Boats Quickly Out of the Water for Repair*
- *Neil Roebert Vows: One Way Or Another, Celine Charters Will Be Back This High Season*
- *Caravanserai/Alegria: Two Attorneys Offer Advice*
- *Caravanserai/Alegria: Should You Sign "The Paper"? What People Are Doing / Saying*
- *Caravanserai/Alegria: Where & How To Communicate With Other Timeshare Owners*
- *Marty (From Marty's Dream Bar) Comments on the Caravanserai Timeshare Situation*
- [Only \\$59/month Gets You Short-Term Family Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed](#)
- *Plus many more new stories*

**19** 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 Rental of The Week:

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](mailto:susan@jmbcommunications.com)

### ***SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:***

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](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

[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:

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

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

1. Airport, Cruise, & Container Facilities Quickly Back On Line after Gonzalo
2. Tropical Atlantic Quiet, For Now

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

3. Rundown of Conditions at SXM Hotels & Timeshare Properties  
*See Section Three for Caravanserai-Related Articles*

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

**-- Low Membership Prices Extended For The Last Time -- Help Us Help You By Joining, Renewing, or Reinstating Today  
-- Completely New Travel Benefit Gives JMB Members & Weekly News Readers Free Access To Lowest-Cost Airfares -- And Much More**

**[Go Nowhere Without SkyMed MedEvac Protection -- About \\$1.25/day Protects You For a Full-Year](#)**

4. On-The-Scene Hurricane Recovery Observations From Island 92's Jeff Sochrin
5. SXM Undergoing Rapid Recovery; What's Going on Where
6. Should You Come or Cancel Your Trip?
7. SXM Is Open for Business
8. At Club Orient, It's Back To Normal The Day After Gonzalo Swirls Northward
9. Orient Beach Recovery Also Faster Than Expected
10. Damaged Boats Quickly Out of the Water for Repair
11. Neil Roebert Vows: One Way Or Another, Celine Charters Will Be Back This High Season
12. Caravanserai/Alegria: Two Attorneys Offer Advice
13. Caravanserai/Alegria: Should You Sign "The Paper"? What People Are Doing / Saying
14. Caravanserai/Alegria: Where & How To Communicate With Other Timeshare Owners
15. Marty (From Marty's Dream Bar) Comments on the Caravanserai Timeshare Situation
16. Online Resources About St. Maarten / St. Martin
17. How To Get The Lowest Airfares, Package Tours, Hotel Stays, and More
18. "Restaurant of the Week" Returns Next Month
19. Kingdom Boxes SXM's Ears; SXM Whacks Kingdom Upside The Head in Response

**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](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) .

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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. Airport, Cruise, & Container Facilities Quickly Back On Line after Gonzalo

Within a day after hurricane Gonzalo swirled northward away from St. Maarten, Princess Juliana airport had reopened. Soon after, the container facilities at Point Blanche reopened, which is significant because virtually all the food consumed on the island comes in by container or is air-shipped.

On the Saturday after the storm, last Saturday, the first cruise ship, Carnival Valor, returned to the island — so all modes of transportation are back in full swing.

Several more stories about hurricane Gonzalo are in section 3.

To see our main St. Maarten Facebook page, go here:



---

#### 2. Tropical Atlantic Quiet, For Now

As hurricane Gonzalo fiercely illustrated, hurricanes can form and make landfall very quickly. At this writing on Saturday, the tropical Atlantic is quiet and swells from hurricane Gonzalo are subsiding across the area stretching from the northern Caribbean islands to Newfoundland.

Hopefully it will stay that way.

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

#### 3. Rundown of Conditions at SXM Hotels & Timeshare Properties

As you will soon read in the next section, conditions across the island are in unexpectedly good shape. Virtually all resorts are up and operating. The storm knocked trees down and it affected vegetation across the island, but most resorts have already cleaned up the vast majority of storm debris.

Wind-driven rain seeped into a few rooms at some resorts and has been cleaned up. The storm's strongest winds affected palm trees, fences, signs, and rooftop structures on various hotels. Some roofing at Simpson Bay resort was affected by the storm and is being repaired.

At Oyster Bay beach resort, some air-conditioning units atop buildings were affected by the storm and also are being repaired.

We know of no major structural damage or other significant issues at any hotel or timeshare on the island. If you have any questions specific to your resort or timeshare, phone there. Electricity, water, and telecommunications are almost totally back in service across the island. The worst thing that happened at most hotels is that pools were filled with windblown vegetation and had to be cleaned. Done deal -- not a huge problem.

All told, this storm was not a huge problem for SXM resorts. Read on for the rest of the story....

### **SECTION 3: Island**

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

---

---

## JMB Membership Prices Increase 11/1:

### Get The Lowest Prices Now On The Biggest, Best SXM Discount Package: Access 200+ Discounts Across SXM **Now**

We've extended our current low prices briefly for the last time. The cost of JMB Website Supporters new, renewal, and reinstated memberships increases Nov. 1. 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](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](#).

---

#### 4. On-The-Scene Hurricane Recovery Observations From Island 92's Jeff Sochrin

"Over the past week, since Hurricane Gonzalo paid us an unwelcome visit, many visitors, tourists and friends alike have asked, "Should I still come to St. Maarten this year?". Well, I have an answer for you.... YES - come and enjoy the island.

"As I write this journal entry on a Thursday evening (just three days since Gonzalo), the island has made remarkable strides in cleaning up, restoring services and getting ready for the new season. By the time this newsletter reaches your inbox, much of the Friendly Island will be open for business as usual, so COME and enjoy your time on our shores. I won't kid you, you will see areas that have been effected by Gonzalo. Chances are, if you are a repeat visitor, you might know many of the folks effected by the storm and they are waiting to see you. What I can tell you as a resident of the island, is that we look forward to seeing the many friendly familiar faces year after year, and even in the face of adversity, we will show you our smiles and our hospitality.

" Should you visit us this year? Without a doubt YES! I guarantee there will be NO snow.

"Please accept this as my personal invitation from Island 92 and our family of sponsors - we want you to visit, we know you will see some old friends, make some new ones and have a great time! And by the way, be sure to stop by Island 92's Stone Henge Studios above Federal Express in Cole Bay, and say hi! Tune in on air at 91.9 FM or online at [www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com)."

From Jeff Berger: We have posted many pictures on <https://www.facebook.com/jeff.berger1> (scroll down the page to see them). As always, we'll post hard news about the island and its recovery on our main everything St. Maarten Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>, as well as right here in *SXM Weekly News*.

---

#### 5. SXM Undergoing Rapid Recovery; What's Going on Where

Ever since hurricane Gonzalo approached the island, we've been on the phone virtually nonstop with people from across both sides of the island keeping tabs on what has been happening.

The bottom line is quite amazing: I think it's fair to say that the recovery is faster than most tourists would have ever dared to imagine. Of course there is evidence that a hurricane struck the island — there are many boats sunk in Simpson Bay lagoon and in Marigot, and there is extensive damage to some waterfront bars and restaurants along Orient beach and at Friars Bay.

But the cosmetic damage caused by the storm — lots of trees down and vegetation all over — is virtually all cleaned up, telephone and electrical and water service has largely been restored, and the island is open for business as usual.



Gonzalo was a significant hurricane, sinking some 37 boats and causing millions of dollars in damage. A number of simple buildings both on Friars Bay and at Orient beach were seriously damaged, but at this point some Orient beach structures have already been restored and some businesses there have reopened.

As we mentioned earlier, damage to hotels was not major, from one end of the island to the other. As Jeff Sochrin said — if you're planning to come, do it; island businesses will be happy to see you and you will be happy to visit your favorite island.

One final comment: *SXM Weekly News* is published by a company based in Boston run by Jeff Berger, who has been visiting the island since 1978 and has a deep passion for its people. He is not paid one cent by the island for promotion, and never has been. *SXM Weekly News* presents St. Maarten / St. Martin warts and all, as it always has. You can depend on us for news of consequence for tourists and not for public relations pap. To paraphrase Mercedes Benz: the truth ... or nothing.

---

## 6. Should You Come or Cancel Your Trip?

As we mentioned in the previous article, we are not PR agents for the island of St. Maarten. We've been visiting the island since 1978 and have had a love affair with it since we first set foot on the island. What we do here is talk about SXM from the perspective of a tourist, for the benefit of tourists from around the world.

From that perspective, there is absolutely no reason to delay or cancel any planned trip to St. Maarten. As we've noted elsewhere in this issue, the island is recovering rapidly from Gonzalo. Drive around the island, especially near Simpson Bay lagoon or Orient beach, and you'll see areas that were hard-hit by the hurricane. That said, as we noted elsewhere the recovery is going phenomenally well, hotels and restaurants all open, there is no problem getting around the island at all, and everything is getting close to normal. The airport itself was back and in shape the day after the hurricane. No reason at all not to come.

---

## 7. SXM Is Open for Business

This article does not repeat the we said before about the status of the island. A single point here: St. Maarten business owners were busily preparing for high season when Gonzalo struck; the storm forced them to clean up, and then return to their high season preparations.

All they need to make this a successful shoulder season is you. Soon come, mon.

---

## 8. At Club Orient, It's Back To Normal The Day After Gonzalo Swirls Northward

Last week, we published many pictures of the beach and restaurants along Orient beach, a number of which suffered fairly heavy damage.

At Club Orient, in fact, just south of the Papagayo restaurant, a couple of boats were beached. Even Tiko Tiko, Club Orient's own excursion boat, wound up on the beach with other boats near it.

As we reported elsewhere in this issue, Club Orient had very little damage and was back in business the day after the storm. Most of their damage was downed trees and other storm debris, all of it minor except the boats.

Come on down, take your clothes off, and enjoy this clothing optional paradise.

---

## 9. Orient Beach Recovery Also Faster Than Expected

If you've seen the pictures we posted of the mess that was made of a number of Orient beach bars and restaurants, you would not have expected a quick recovery — but you would be wrong.

Among others, both KonTiki and La Playa have already reopened, and Papagayo at Club Orient opened the day after the storm. At no doubt by the time you read this, a number of other Orient beach establishments will have cleaned up their properties and reopened. Again, those properties are fairly simple and putting them back together simply means getting the wood and hammering.

---

## 10. Damaged Boats Quickly Out of the Water for Repair

Marine insurance adjusters had been busy on both sides of the island since Gonzalo left. 37 boats sank, and many more were damaged. Repairing damaged boats means getting them out of the water into a facility capable of fixing the problems.

Last Saturday, Neil Roebert was able to get his motor yacht, Celine II Ocean Mist, out of the water and onto dry land where he can repair it, which he says will take a couple of weeks. Our story about Neil appears elsewhere in this issue; his Celine catamaran, long a favorite of our readers, was slammed into by a much larger boat that had torn free of its moorings; Celine was reduced to kindling and sank. Much more on Neil is in the next story.

---

## 11. Neil Roebert Vows: One Way Or Another, Celine Charters Will Be Back This High Season

Our long-time friend of Neil Roebert, captain of the Celine catamaran, didn't waste any time grieving after the boat he had hand-built in South Africa was wrecked and sank during hurricane Gonzalo in Simpson Bay lagoon. "If I had been aboard," he said to us last weekend, "I would have been killed by that storm on the boat." Celine had been securely anchored at Boca Marina, but a much larger boat tore loose from its moorings and smashed into the Celine, wrecking it and causing it to sink. Conditions were far too rough to be able to exit the boat in the middle of the storm, which is why another captain of another boat who had stayed aboard at Boca perished during the storm.

We have spoken to Neil during the evening earlier this week when the full fury of Gonzalo was just starting to be felt. At that time, he said, "I've done all I can," and Neil stayed safely at home — a decision which ultimately saved his life.

Neil has moved on from that emotional experience and is concentrating now on quickly completing the repairs to Celine II/Ocean Mist, his large motoryacht.

Since Neil has been consumed with the aftermath of Gonzalo, he has not had a chance to take concrete actions to the future. But, he knows exactly where he's going, any told us matter-of-factly: "One way or another, Celine charters will be back in business in St. Maarten this high season."

That's great news from our long-time friend, and we will give you all the details just as soon as we can.

---

## 12. Caravanserai/Alegria: Two Attorneys Offer Advice

As we've reported, the new owners of Caravanserai resort, now known as Alegria, e-mailed a poorly written notice to Caravanserai timeshare owners telling them that their timeshare ownership contracts were null and void. The owners apparently believe that since they bought the property at auction after foreclosure, there is no need for them to honor prior timeshare contracts.

Needless to say, those timeshare owners who received this notification were furious at the new owners and not particularly happy with either Scotia Bank, which directed the foreclosure sale, and or with prior management. They aren't particularly happy that the island has yet to do anything, either.

In fairness to the island, since this story broke, there has been an island election and a change in government has been underway but is not yet completed. The Netherlands is telling the island to go slow and make sure the integrity of the new government is unquestionable before anyone it is sworn in or named to key positions of authority. That is a key reason the government hasn't done anything yet. The other key reason is that it was sidetracked by storm called Gonzalo.

There has been no hesitation on the part of many timeshare owners to seek help from St. Maarten lawyers. What follows is directly from the offices of two key lawyers who will likely be involved in group litigation against the new ownership of Caravanserai:

"Our office is willing to assist timeshare owners, preferably if they are organized in order to be able to initiate a class action. Our firm has substantial experience with regard to timeshare and several timeshare resorts on the island are client of our office. We have litigated about new owners having to respect rights of timeshare owners that purchased their rights from the previous owner of the resort.

"We generally charge on an hourly basis with hourly fees ranging from US\$ 225,00 for junior lawyers to US\$ 375 for senior partners. If a group of timeshare owners is interested to retain us we may want to form a special purpose association or foundation that will act as representative of the owners and which will be our client. We are happy to discuss how we can structure the representation through individual owners and/or through the special purpose vehicle."

Regards,  
Mark Kortenoever  
LEXWELL  
Attorneys at Law  
Falcon Road 2  
Harbor View  
Philipsburg  
Sint Maarten



Phone.: +1 721 542 4670

Fax: +1 721 542 4693

Cell: +1 721 520 0651

[www.lexwell.net](http://www.lexwell.net)

And from Monique Hofman, a veteran of timeshare battles on SXM who is already helping Caravanserai timeshare owners form groups for litigation. Her information is:

Monique M. Hofman-Ruigrok  
Bermon Lawoffice & Legislative Services  
Frontstreet # 6, suite 3  
Philipsburg  
Sint Maarten

Tel: 1-721-5425088 / 1-721-5425074 / 1-721-5437827

Fax: 1-721-5425087

Email: [monique.hofman@bermon-law.com](mailto:monique.hofman@bermon-law.com)

Website: [www.bermon-law.com](http://www.bermon-law.com)

---

### 13. Caravanserai/Alegria: Should You Sign "The Paper"? What People Are Doing / Saying

We don't own anything at Caravanserai. But like many other people, we own timesharing elsewhere, and when we felt we were being abused by the developers of other timeshares, we jumped into litigation with both feet. That has happened a number of times on the island as we have reported in *SXM Weekly News*.

We will tell you that if we were timeshare owners at Caravanserai/Alegria, we would not hesitate to contact one of the attorneys noted above and get involved with litigation against these people. Regardless of whether they have obeyed the law, the fact remains, in our humble opinion, that they have kicked in the head thousands of loyal Caravanserai timeshare owners who had been the financial backbone of the resort they have just acquired.

There is absolutely no question in our minds that without the financial support of all timeshare owners, Alegria may well wind up in financial hot water sooner rather than later, no matter how deep the financial pockets are of its new ownership. No business survives without customers. St. Maarten has a four-month high season and a modest shoulder season, followed by nothing much every fall. In our humble opinion, alienating timeshare owners as Alegria has done is a really bad marketing decision which we think Alegria management and ownership should revisit immediately. If it chooses to satisfy the needs of its timeshare owners, Alegria will hit a home run on its second trip to the plate which will be a big deal for it, for timeshare owners, and for the entire island. But if it chooses to alienate 2500 Caravanserai timeshare owners, it would take a long succession of major miracles for it ever to be successful, in our opinion.

We know that a large number of people already have committed to litigation. If we owned there, we would be with them — and we would not sign any paper emailed to us without first getting authoritative legal feedback. There is also no place on this planet where any email should ever be accepted by any court as anything resembling a legal document. We don't like either what Alegria did here or how they did it.

---

### 14. Caravanserai/Alegria: Where & How To Communicate With Other Timeshare Owners

Go here; it's why we set up this page:

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

For the latest news watch *SXM Weekly News*, right here. Read next story....

---

### 15. Marty (From Marty's Dream Bar) Comments on the Caravanserai Timeshare Situation

Marty operates Marty's Gyro near Toppers and the Dream Bar inside the Alegria/Caravanserai complex. This is Marty's public comment about the situation at Alegria. Our response to it follows....

"I had a meeting with the new owner, Mr. Sidhom and he explained [to] me exactly what's going on. So here it goes with full knowledge of Mr. Sidhom, me writing this. [Expletives have been deleted. This entire piece is "sic".-Ed.]

"We are no longer a timeshare resort. The new owner bought the land, long term lease, through a public auction set up by scotia bank. Mr. Sidhom bought the land legally. The land deed was sold by foreclosure by Scotia Bank. Mr. Sidhom took full ownership on Septemer 15th

2014. Mr. Sidhom did NOT buy or was obliged to buy endless vacation N.V. or Kildare N. V. what your timeshare contracts were under. The former owner, Mr. Manek, managing director of those 2 companies made a mess of it, therefor the bank took it back. The bank did again NOT sell the cooperations ( N.V.s) but only the land deed.

"Mr Sidhom has NO obligation honoring any contracts made between timeshare owners and kildare N.V. or Endless Vacation N.V. He is not at fault here. He bought the land so he can make this the best HOTEL resort in the Caribbean. NEVER AGAIN a timeshare or vacation club or which ever. 100 % hotel. If he would have bought it directly from Mr. Manek then we have the dutch saying> Koop breekt geen huur. Buying does not break leases. He however bought it through foreclosure auction which is why he does NOT have to take over any companies previous associated with the resort. So after consulting with also my lawyer, any action law suits you are planning against Mr. Sidhom , Alegria N.V. or Alegria B.V will stand little ground and will cost you legal fees. The one to go after would be Endless Vacation or Kildare and go even further straight to Mr. Manek.

"I know how bad this is for the timeshare owners. But again Mr. Sidhom did nothing wrong and is being made look like the bad guy on behalf of Mr. Manek. Mr. Sidhom feels extremely bad about the situation also, but he also has to protect his investment. What he is doing now is (what he does NOT have to do, but does so people can still come on vacation as planned if they want to) is charging you for whatever the amount was you were paying anyway for maintenance for (your) old timeshare unit. THAT unit will be your unit you stay in . That's why in your letter it stated a Hotel room, since we are 100% hotel. This is on an annual base until he also cancels that, which he can do as of today if he wants to, because he can make a lot more income by renting the hotel room, then timeshare owners pay for a week maintenance. To recoup your investement and hard earned money like I wrote earlier, go after the right person which is anything that has to do with Mr. Manek or Scotia Bank. I'm caught in the middle of this ---- also. I did however make a business deal with Mr. Sidhom, and The Dream pool bar is what it was.

"I believe 100 % in Mr. Sidhom 's intentions. He's an Honorable business man and I'm 100 % on his team. I'm glad Mr. Manek is out. Mr. Sidhom is flying in, on a weekly base, work crews from the states. Breaking out of mildew smelling units start next week, to rebuild them. His intentions are great. If he would NOT have purchased through foreclosure and no one would have bought, this would all have gone down the ----- anyway if Mr. Manek would have stayed around. You fed him millions in maintenance and timeshare money, and all is gone. So go after the right folks. That's just my 2 cents, but do what you gotta do. So wanna stay? Then pay (your) regular maintenance for your unit. Your contact is Maria @ Alegria hotel. That's where your questions should be directed to and not me. I however will do my best to keep you informed and tell you about facts not hearsay. You might not like what I wrote, but at least I hope I cleared some questions up...." - Marty (Dream Bar)

Jeff Comments: Please see article #13. We know Mr. Sidhom is an experienced businessman, but as visitors to SXM since 1978 we know a lot about the island. And having written about it for more than 20 years, we know a lot about tourists needs and wants as well. We believe Mr. Sidhom has made a wrong business decision here. He should have acted to protect the timeshare owners business investments first since that would have protected his own investments but he apparently has chosen not to do that. If he does not act to recover this situation very quickly, that decision will alienate timeshare owners, severely hurt his own business, and harm the St. Maarten timeshare industry, perhaps irreparably. We hope there is court action soon to at least "stay" this situation until the new government is formalized and can intervene on behalf of the owners of about 3000 Caravanserai timeshare weeks. The government absolutely needs to stand by tourists if it expects future tourists to continue to trust that it cares for them and will protect them as island consumers. Lastly, whether this is legal is a decision for the courts and we hope Mr. Sidhom is prepared for a long battle here. We know timeshare owners are.

---

## 16. Online Resources About St. Maarten / St. Martin

Our Caravanserai Timesharing page on Facebook:

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

Our main Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Page:

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

Our SXM Website:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com>

Signup page for *SXM Weekly News*:

[http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/index.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/index.shtml)

People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in SXM:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SXMtimeshare>

Help Us Help You, and Get 200 SXM Discounts from JMB Website Supporters:

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

---

## 17. How To Get The Lowest Airfares, Package Tours, Hotel Stays, and 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](http://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.

---

## 18. "Restaurant of the Week" Returns Next Month

Watch for it; includes links to dozens of the top island restaurants.

---

## 19. Kingdom Boxes SXM's Ears; SXM Whacks Kingdom Upside The Head in Response

Legislators in the Netherlands -- where there is as much politicking going on as there is in DC -- have at times called SXM a "Banana Republic" (false, folks; not one banana plantation that I know of) and have been railing about "Integrity" in SXM and demanding very careful scrutiny of all possible future ministers there including the Prime Minister, who would be Theo Heyliger. Heyliger is publicly fuming saying The Hague is acting unconstitutionally (sound familiar?) and has no right to do any of this stuff. Result: delayed formalization of the new government which adds to the Caravanserai mess. Government stopped in the US a while ago; it isn't closed in SXM, but it's pretty close.

---

## 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://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 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmbspecial) (JMB members only) or [www.skymed.com/jmbxsm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbxsm) (everyone else).

Five-year Free JMB Membership Extension With New Five-Year Ultimate Purchase: 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 JMB membership extension. Offer ends November 30, 2014. The five-year JMB membership extension will be terminated if you cancel your SkyMed Ultimate membership before its five-year term expires.

---

### 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](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](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](http://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) --- <http://www.stmartin-stmaartentravelspecialists.com> 704-567-6661

---

Rent [St. Maarten Villas](http://www.rentstmaartenvillas.com) 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](http://www.villasinparadise.com) 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 508-533-1388.

---

[Emerald Cove Villas](http://www.emeraldcovevillas.com) 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)

---

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.

---

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) .

---

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) .

---

### 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 (Constantly Updated)**

Please see [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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](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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml)

10/20/14 #964B 7.2

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2014. World rights reserved.