



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

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Members SECRET Website Login

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

Weekly Tourist-Oriented News & Comments from SXM

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Part of www.everythingstmaarten.com

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

Important Note:

You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have over 224,000 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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly 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 #978 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:

- ***Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Litigation Group Ready To Go***
- ***Jeff Berger To Appear on Oral Gibbes TV Show in SXM; Focus, Timesharing***
- ***SXM Timeshare Industry "Has Government's Attention"***
- ***Simpson Bay Resort Marina Building Next for Heavy Renovations***
- ***Exactly What Are Our 215+ Discounts & Benefits?***
- ***Chikungunya Update***
- ***Snowstorm in SXM?***
- ***Falling Euro & You***
- ***Mullet Bay Beach Resort Almost 20 Years Later***
- ***About Our Members-Only Sunset Cruises***

32 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:

RENTAL -- January 31 to February 7, 2015 (week 5)-- Exceptional cliff-top unit 4B at Summit Resort Hotel offers 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 is fully air-conditioned, 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. More photos available! Reduced to only \$1099. Jeff, 508-747-8281 or jeff@jmbcommunications.com. This unit and week 4 in the same unit are also both for sale.

RENTAL 02/07/2015 02/21/2015 Weeks 6 & 7 Ocean Club Large 1 bedroom tower unit, (sleeps 6), 1 1/2 baths, Lanai, full kitchen, indoor parking. Full amenities including pool, Cupecoy Beach access, on premises bar and dining, maid service. Renter pays Island fees and electric surcharge \$700.00 per week Tony (860) 618-2722 aolivapotenza@yahoo.com

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE: 1/31/15 to 2/7/15 (week 5) Simpson Bay Resort Marina 207, a completely renovated & redesigned 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. Asking \$6500 but will entertain offers. 2016 occupancy. All new! Photos available. Please contact Jeff at email jeff@jmbcommunications.com - leave phone number and we'll call back.

SALE 3/1/2015 3/15/2015 Week 9 and 10 Royal Palm Beach Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, recently refurbished with granite countertops and new appliances. 2 King size beds and sofa bed in living room make for private sleeping for 6 people. Unit is on the 5th floor, overlooking pool and beach. Great location close to airport and short ride to both the Dutch and French sides. WiFi, Shops, gym, beauty salon and restaurant on site and within walking distance to many more. Laundry facility on site. Maintenance fee for 2015 has been paid for both weeks. \$3000.00 per week Steve 718-362-6185 until 1/18, then 703-623-2634 after 1/18/15 bwsalesco@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at 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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Get a growing list of 210+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

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

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

1. About The Weather...
2. How To Get The Lowest-Cost Airfares, Hotels, Cruises, and Tour Packages Worldwide (Repeat)

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

3. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Litigation Group Announces Its Position, Invites New Members
4. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Highly Vocal in the Local Press
5. Jeff Berger To Appear on Oral Gibbes TV Show in SXM; Focus, Timesharing
6. SXM Timeshare Industry "Has Government's Attention"
7. Alegria Resort Schedules, then Cancels Furniture Auction
8. Simpson Bay Marina Building Next for Heavy Renovations
9. A Look at Coral Beach Club

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

- 10. **Our 215+ Discounts & Benefits: What Are They?**
- 11. **Low Prices Always on Our 215+ Discounts & Benefits**
- 12. **Sk yMed Stays On Sale -- Go Nowhere Without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection** (Story Below)
- 13. **SkyMed Offers End-of-Year Bargain Renewals to Current Members; Act Quickly**

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

14. Chikungunya Update
15. Snowstorm in SXM? Why It Looks Like "Flurries" On Your Island
16. Only The St. Maarten Party Bus is "Da Party Bus" -- But It's Not The One and Only (We Fix the Confusion)
17. Eliminating More Confusion: Only Baker's Suites Is Bakers Suites
18. As The Euro Weakens, Grand Case Gourmet Restaurants Become Easier to Swallow
19. Lots of Great Choices for Breakfasts in SXM
20. Retrospective on Mullet Bay Beach Resort...
21. ...And Where a New Mullet Bay Beach Resort Stands Nearly 20 Years After Luis
22. Atlantis Casino Changing Name to "Stars"?
23. The Atlantis Diorama...
24. What's Going On at The Former La Gondola Restaurant
25. Golfing Reaches It Peak at Mullet Bay Golf Course
26. Places To Buy a Box Lunch
27. The Always Amazing Westin Sunday Brunch
28. About Our New Vacation Giveaway
29. "Celine Too" Hits The Water to Huge Accolades; How To Contact Capt. Neil Roebert
30. About Our Members-Only Sunday Sunset Cruises
31. When We Do a Giveaway, Here's Why You Must Answer Your Phone
32. Restaurant of the Week

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 12/31/14)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Five: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 12/31/14)

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://everythingsxm.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. About The Weather...

There were high thin clouds much of this week and a couple of deluges. But the uneven transition to normal winter weather is progressing, with brighter skies and drier weather.

2. How To Get The Lowest-Cost Airfares, Hotels, Cruises, and Tour Packages Worldwide (Repeat)

This is the single biggest piece of membership news we've had in the past 12 years and it bears repeating: 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 once you've booked through them.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

3. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Litigation Group Announces Its Position, Invites New

Members

Anyone who thinks that Caravanseraitymeshare owners are simply walking away in disgust doesn't know what's happening.

A number of Caravanseraitymeshare owners who did not sign that obscure e-mailed form sent to some owners last October have banded together as an organization and are preparing to go after what they know is theirs in court.

We talked to the folks who are in charge of this organization and the described a bit of what they are about and left some advice about joining two other Caravanseraitymeshare owners. Here is their information:

At the request of Jeff Berger (EverythingSXM.com, SXM Weekly News), we have been asked to reach out to owners who are stunned, surprised & shocked at what has transpired with our timeshare ownership rights at the Caravanseraai Resort.

As you are already aware (although some may not be yet), some owners were sent a letter by email, at the beginning of last October, from the new owner of the resort (Alegria/Mr. Ray Sidhom) informing us that our timeshare rights were null & void. Some owners got together and began the process of figuring out what to do about this travesty.

The island of Sint Maarten falls under Dutch law and as such does not support the concept of a class action lawsuit as found in the U.S. and Canadian legal systems. We were advised that the closest equivalent was to form an association which can then retain a law firm to represent it. Our initial choice of representation, Bermon Law, facilitated the formation of the association called TOCA (Timeshare Owners of Caravanseraai Association). We presently have 67 active members including 4 members as the board of directors. The directors are Carol Anne Lee-Desmarais who is the president, John Minielly, Frank Schepers & David Burwell.

Our first step was to get an injunction against Alegria to block the November 1st that they set to accept their offer of hotel accommodations in lieu of timeshare rights. This was accomplished and a few weeks later, a hearing in front of a judge was held. Unfortunately due to a technicality, the judge ruled that he could not support our claims as presented. At the advice of our lawyer we did not appeal the injunction court decision. We are now proceeding forward with a new law firm (Lexwell Attorneys at Law) with our main case procedure.

On the advice of our lawyer, we will accept as new members, owners who have NOT signed Alegria's letter and who are willing to pay a starter retainer fee. There are no other fees to join this association. We are all working on a volunteer basis and the only fees, incurred to date, are legal fees which are being shouldered by the membership.

In order not to jeopardize our legal battle, our lawyer has advised us not to disclose our main case procedure/strategy to any social media.

If you wish to join our association, please send an email to our email address at tocagroup@gmail.com and one of the members of the board of directors will return your email request at the earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol-Anne, John, Frank & David
(Members of the board of directors for TOCA)

4. Caravanseraai Timeshare Owners Highly Vocal in the Local Press

A deluge of Letters to the Editor has the attention of local media and of the government. The letters are well-written, thoughtful, frank, and respectful, but they do say what happened, why, and their reaction to what happened to them.

Here is where you can add your voice to the chorus of St. Maarten timeshare owners expressing themselves concerning the Caravanseraai debacle: If you're a St. Maarten timeshare owner, particularly a timeshare owner at Caravanseraai, we urge you to make your views known to the people of St. Maarten via letters to the editor pages. It does matter – far more than you think.

Contact the Today newspaper at: todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com

And contact the Daily Herald newspaper at: editorial@thedailyherald.com

Please feel free to share this information with other St. Maarten timeshare owners. Do that here: <https://www.facebook.com/Caravanseraitymeshare> which is also a great place to share the Letter to the Editor you send to the SXM press.

5. Jeff Berger To Appear on Oral Gibbes TV Show in SXM; Focus, Timesharing

Well-known SXM TV commentator Oral Gibbes has invited Jeff Berger to tape a program regarding SXM timesharing. The taping occurs early this week. The show will be broadcast on SXM Cable TV and is expected to be put on You Tube; we'll let you know where on You Tube once we know. You can search Oral Gibbes on You Tube after Monday and you may find the tape already online.

6. SXM Timeshare Industry "Has Government's Attention"

As predicted, the new government of St. Maarten is turning its attention to the island's lack of timeshare owner consumer protection legislation, part of what enabled Ray Sidhom, the new owner of Caravanserai, to take over the resort and declare timeshare owner contracts null and void.

There are two issues though: 2300 Caravanserai timeshare owners lost their properties — and that's dead wrong and needs to be fixed.

Moreover, "having the attention of the government" isn't good enough. As we understand it, the legislation under consideration was drafted largely by timeshare resorts without input from timeshare owners who are the people putting millions of dollars into the tax coffers of the island. Any timeshare owner consumer protection legislation that does not embody input from timeshare owners is worthless and will do nothing to solve the island's problems. No window dressing – it will be recognized as such and treated accordingly.

7. Alegria Resort Schedules, then Cancels Furniture Auction

Alegria resort advertised a furniture auction, then abruptly canceled it. Owner Ray Sidhom may have concluded that there was a possibility of some kind of demonstration or protest at or during the auction since thousands of timeshare owners are not happy with him.

If they decide to do this again, we'll let you know.

8. Simpson Bay Marina Building Next for Heavy Renovations

The Simpson Bay Resort Marina building, and possibly the Flamboyant building as well, are scheduled for renovation this year.

The resort told us last week that the new Marina units will have virtually the same look as the completely renovated "B" building units. Billing for the floor to ceiling renovations is expected in March, with reconstruction starting in April.

Renovations will be finished well before next high season. Supplemental maintenance fees charged to timeshare owners will be based upon room size, with sleep for studios being roughly \$1400.

We are posting the pictures of new Marina units on our everything St. Maarten Facebook page by today (Monday). See:

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

9. A Look at Coral Beach Club

Corinne and Richard Margulies own a town home and a villa at Coral Beach Club on Dawn beach, SXM. If you've never seen Coral Beach, look: <http://www.corinnesvilla.com/>. The units are new and beautiful and Richard and Corinne have decorated them very, very nicely.

A week in one of these units was one of nine vacations we gave away last Monday in Thanks Four Million, to celebrate us surpassing 4,000,000 visits to www.everythingsxm.com. For more on what we gave away and to whom, see the next section.

SECTION 3: Island

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

10. Our 215+ Discounts & Benefits: What Are They? :

Ever wonder? We're adding new categories this week -- including Japanese Dining, Ice Cream, and others. The Carousel is joining us, for example.

Before the addition of several new categories (starting this coming week), here is a list of the categories of all our benefits and discounts. It's huge. The links from here do not work -- when members access this Master Index on the Secret Site, they do work, taking members directly

to the descriptions.

To join, see story 11.

- [Accommodations](#)
 - Hotels
 - Villas
 - Cottages
 - Inns
 - Nativist
- [Activities](#) *Also see Sailing*
- [Advertising](#)
 - Rent Out Your Timeshare
 - Sell Your Timeshare
 - Rent or Sell Full Ownership Condos or Villas
 - How to Get Ads Posted in Two Business Days (Platinum Members Only; see also *Platinum Memberships*)
 - How to Get Ads Posted in Two Business Days (Not for Platinum members; fee involved)
- [Adult Toy Box](#) *See Also Boudoir Photography*
- Airfare *See Low Airfare Grid link to the left*
- [Arts and Artists](#)
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- Beach Bars *See Dining*
- Beach Chairs *See Vacation Rentals*
- Beach Umbrellas *See Vacation Rentals*
- [Beachwear](#) *See also Swimwear*
- Bird Guide *See Wildlife Guide*
- [Boudoir Photography](#)
- [Business Services](#)
- Butterfly Farm *See Activities*
- Candy *See Restaurants and Shopping*
- [Car Rental Discounts](#)
- [Casinos](#)
- [Cell Phone Rentals](#) *See Also Telephone Discounts*
- Chat Center *See Facebook*
- Chocolate *See Restaurants and Shopping*
- [Cigars](#)
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- Condominium Rental or Sale Ads (See Advertising)
- Cuban Cigars *See Cigars*
- Da Party Bus *See Party Bus*
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- [Discount Programs \(Affiliated\)](#)
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 - [SXM Privilege](#)
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- Exercise *See Personal Training*
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- [Free Lagoon Sunset Cruises](#)
- [Freebies](#) (Other)
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- Galleries *See Arts & Artists*
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- Gifts *See Shopping*

- [Giveaways](#)
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- Jet-Ski Rentals *See Activities*
- [Jewelry](#), Custom Made
- [Jewelry Gift Cards](#)
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- [Julio's Smoke & Booze](#) (Snack Wholesaler serving JMB members)
- Lagoon Sunset Cruises *See Free Lagoon Sunset Cruises*
- Lawyer *See Attorney*
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- [Maps](#) *St. Maarten St. Martin Road Maps*
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- Night Clubs
- [Ombudsman](#)
- Overseas Benefits & Discounts
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- [Party Bus](#)
- [Perfume, Make Your Own](#)
- [Personal Shopping](#) (Groceries)
- [Personal Training](#) (Includes Gym, Exercising, and Yoga)
- Pizza *See Restaurants*
- [Platinum Membership](#)
- Pocketbooks *See Handbags*
- Power Boats *See Sailing*
- Pub Crawls *See Sailing*
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- Rent-a-Car *See Car Rental*
- [Rentals, Long Term](#)
- Rentals, Timeshare (see *Advertising*)
- [Rentals, Vacation](#) (beach chairs, umbrellas, etc.)
- [Restaurants](#)
 - [Membership Extension for Suggesting Dining Benefits](#)
 - [Dutch Side](#)
 - [French Side](#)
 - [Beach Bars](#)
 - Breakfast, Please peruse *Dutch Side, French Side, and Beach Bars*
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 - [Creole](#)
 - [French](#)
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 - [Ice Cream & Yogurt](#)
 - [Italian](#)
 - Japanese

- [Mexican](#)
- [Middle Eastern](#), also see *Greek*
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- Rastafarian (See *Vegetarian*)
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- SCUBA See *Diving*
- [Shopping \(See also Jewelry categories, Wholesale Snacks, and Souvenirs\)](#)
- Sir Roland Richardson See *Arts and Artists*
- SkyMed See *Emergency Medical Evacuation*
- [Souvenirs](#) See also *Shopping*
- Spa See *Manicure / Pedicure / Nails* or see *Massage*
- St. Maarten Weekly News Newsletter See *SXM Weekly News*
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- [Travel Agents](#)
- Travel See *Low Airfare Grid link to the left*
- [Travel Website Our Discounted Travel Website is www.flytravelgo.com](#)
- Truck Rentals See *Car Rentals*
- [Turnings By Ledden](#)
- [Wholesale Snacks](#)
- [Wildlife Guide](#)
- Yachts See *Charter Yachts*
- Yoga See *Personal Training*
- Yogurt See *Restaurants*
- [Vacation Rentals This is Beach Chairs & Umbrellas: if you're after accommodations, see Accommodations](#)
- Zoo See *Activities*

11. Low Prices Always on Our 215+ Discounts & Benefits: Only \$59 For The Biggest, Best SXM Discount Package -- Gift Memberships Available

Get The Best SXM Discount Package: Get about 210 discounts across the island including sizable jewelry gift cards, half-off members-only lagoon sunset cruises, discounts at dozens and dozen of restaurants, plus many activities, art, shopping, and other discounts

on both sides of the island.

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](#).

To get a Gift Membership -- simply buy via PayPal and use the "Comments" area to tell us who you're buying for (name, address, email). Bonus: buy a Gift Membership and we'll extend your own membership for a full year on us.

Story 12:

SkyMed Now On Sale: Don't Gamble When You Travel - Take SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection With You

SkyMed takes you home in a hurry on an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you or your spouse / partner become critically ill or injured while traveling. Without membership, you must pay for the evacuation in cash, in advance -- if you can set it up -- and the cost can easily be \$50,000 or more -- sometimes far 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.

And now the best SkyMed plan is deeply discounted for our members.

There are a number of SkyMed plans available:

Short-term plans are the least expensive in 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 join -- and they are far less per day on an annual basis.

And when you renew SkyMed annual or Ultimate plans, your membership continues uninterrupted and is renewable indefinitely without further medical requalification regardless of your age or health. There are also never any increases in membership fees (premiums) related solely to your age or health: everyone pays the same low rates.

Six Big Reasons To Buy SkyMed Now: The first five -- we are giving away vacations to destinations worldwide to the next five people who buy new five-year SkyMed Ultimate memberships from us between now and January 31 (just expanded / extended.) You get a one week vacation (airfare not included) at your choice of many resorts worldwide and pay only the cost of maintenance *for one day*. That's a deal and a half. (Email us at jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com immediately after buying the new five-year Ultimate from us to tell us.) There's another reason to buy a new 5-year Ultimate: a 5-year free extension of your JMB membership. More on that is below.

The Sixth Reason: Buy any new SkyMed membership other than short term now and even pre-existing conditions are covered once the 90-day waiting period (for pre-existing conditions coverage) has passed.

Here's that steep discount. For five years of "Ultimate" SkyMed global protection, you'd prepay the five-year rate of \$699/year. But JMB Website Supporters members get \$1000 off -- they pay just \$499/year when prepaid in full, or \$2495. If you'd rather pay monthly, it's \$59, \$49, or \$39/month depending on what you need /want. Get yourself protected against the high cost of medical evacuation and you will have great peace of mind.

Call SkyMed any weekday Mountain time at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan or Jim. Tell them you're a JMB Website Supporters member to get the best rates. If you're not a JMB member, join; it's now on sale at Holiday / Black Friday prices (usually 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 . The cost of the best SkyMed plans is deeply discounted for JMB members. SkyMed will ask for your JMB membership number.

For one-year or other duration SkyMed memberships, buy online at www.skymed.com/jmbspecial (JMB members only) or www.skymed.com/jmbxsm (everyone else). Do it today... It's great peace-of-mind when you travel.

Five-year Free JMB Membership Extension With New Five-Year 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 both the SkyMed JMB-members-only discount and 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 extended; ends January 31, 2014. The five-year JMB membership extension will be terminated if you cancel your SkyMed Ultimate membership before its five-year term expires. Vacation offer expires when we run out of vacations; limited quantity available. Join SkyMed now...anything can happen anywhere you go.

13. SkyMed Offers End-of-Year Bargain Renewals to Current Members; Act Quickly

Thousands of readers of *St. Maarten Weekly News*, as well as many of our JMB Website Supporters members, have opted to join SkyMed, which gives them enormous peace of mind when they travel. SkyMed takes you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling — in our view, nothing else matters.

SkyMed members who have an annual or Ultimate membership bought through us have received a letter in the last few weeks offering them membership extensions at a very special year end low price. If you have not responded to SkyMed's mailing, you should do so now: this bargain membership extension will likely not be repeated and it offers you exceptional pricing on SkyMed's superb annual or multiyear memberships.

14. Chikungunya Update

Unlike 2013 – 2014, when there was essentially an epidemic of Chikungunya in St. Maarten, now it is hardly even heard of. There are far fewer mosquitoes and virtually no news of either Chikungunya or dengue fever.

There are a couple of reasons.

First, there was very heavy fogging on the island both after the October hurricane last year and after the heavy rains of early November.

Second, the message about using preventative bug repellents appears to have broken through. The vector mosquitoes that carry Chikungunya can only carry it once they have bitten an infected person. There's not much vectoring going on since so very few people have contracted Chikungunya. All around, it's the best imaginable news.

Don't forget to use your repellent.

15. Snowstorm in SXM? Why It Looks Like "Flurries" On Your Island

When you drive through it, it looks like the beginning of a large flake snow flurry. But it isn't — instead, it's simply tens of thousands of light yellow butterflies in huge flocks widely dispersed across the island.

Heavy rains of last fall brought about more caterpillars than usual and subsequently, far more flowers — the food of these hungry butterflies.

When you're here, drive around; you can't miss them.

We shot a brief video in the Grand Case area which shows one of these flurries. You can see today on You Tube.

16. Only The St. Maarten Party Bus is "Da Party Bus" -- But It's Not The One and Only (We Fix the Confusion)

If you've been on the island recently, and got the impression that the St. Maarten party bus is everywhere, you might be right.

The St. Maarten party bus enables its riders — tourists, ship passengers, and locals — to do a pub crawl on wheels or take other tours on a highly pleasurable motor trip.

So how can it be in two places at once? Easy: a couple of months ago, the party bus owners put a second party bus on the road due to increased demand. So, go for it, and remember — what happens on the party bus stays on the party bus. More:

www.thestmaartenpartybus.com.

17. Eliminating More Confusion: Only Baker's Suites Is Bakers Suites

Baker's Suites opened almost exactly a year ago in Simpson Bay has proven itself to be the biggest hotel news in that area in many years.

This beautiful completely new boutique Suites hotel near Kim Sha beach offers outstanding accommodations, excellent visitor service, a great location, on-property parking that's free, free Wi-Fi, and more. If you need a place to stay for a day, a week, or a month, definitely contact Baker's Suites.

There are other Suites facilities in Simpson Bay — but we want to assure you that only Baker's Suites really is Baker's Suites, the one that pays attention to detail and is manic about ensuring optimal responsiveness to visitor needs. We've known the Baker family for over 20 years and they really do know what they're doing. More: www.BakersSuites.com.

18. As The Euro Weakens, Grand Case Gourmet Restaurants Become Easier to Swallow

Although many restaurants on the northwest coast in Grand Case, French St. Martin, have long charged dollars at par with euros, many more have not, making Grand Case an expensive dining proposition.

Along with the price of oil, the value of the euro has been declining steadily and one day last week it hit \$1.16 and stayed there. Go back to Grand Case if you like -- the bill will be much easier to swallow. There was a time when it took almost \$1.50 to buy one Euro -- that is no more.

19. Lots of Great Choices for Breakfasts in SXM

Most of us enjoy breakfast and there are many places to enjoy it in SXM. Here are some of our favorites:

[Mr. Busby's Beach Bar](#) offers delicious full American breakfasts seven days a week year-round; they never close. The view from their gazebos on Dawn Beach is tremendous and there's almost always a breeze from tradewinds. See www.dawnbeachsxm.com

[Vesna Taverna](#) is known more for their great dinners (Wed-Sunday) than for their breakfasts, but we love everything about this place. They're talking about stopping making bagels, but we hope they don't -- their bagels come in many flavors -- with cream cheese and / or lox. And you can get lox and onions and scrambled eggs together if you like, though we usually do a bacon-egg-cheese bagel. Great breakfasts and lunches, and a fantastic dinner menu. See www.vesnataverna.com.

[Rendez Vous Cafe](#) at Porto Cupecoy offers lots of delicious choices in a Mediterranean-style setting. Great stuff, and the food is delicious.

[Ernest & Fidel's](#) has resumed breakfasts. Also at Porto Cupecoy, breakfasts are delicious and service is attentive; give them a try any weekend.

20. Retrospective on Mullet Bay Beach Resort...

In the 70s it was the biggest, busiest, and best resort on SXM. Dozens and dozens of rooms on a huge campus, a golf course, convention center, casino, buses to move people on the campus, lots of restaurants, an ice cream and candy store, souvenirs, and lots more. Perhaps the most remarkable resort in the Caribbean.

In early September, 1995, Category 5 hurricane Luis destroyed the resort and much of the rest of SXM. Lawsuits followed and most buildings on the campus have long since been demolished.

There has been talk of redevelopment, rumors, and even drawings; more, see next story.

21. ...And Where a New Mullet Bay Beach Resort Stands Nearly 20 Years After Luis

Nowhere....

Several years ago we showed you an artist's rendering of a new resort with a relocated road through it which, sources told us, was nixed by the government since it made beach access very difficult. We've seen and heard nothing since. Hopefully that will change... but almost 20 years after Luis ... apparently nothing on the horizon.

22. Atlantis Casino Changing Name to "Stars"?

That's what we've heard. Repeated calls to the Casino didn't elicit a response by presstime -- and we don't know why a change is being made, if that's indeed happening -- but we think it is.

23. The Atlantis Diorama

Roughly seven years ago, Atlantis told its restaurants that it was going to completely rebuild the entire casino and build a tower on the back of the property. It built a diorama to show the concept and had it in the casino for an extended period.

Like so many other SXM plans it never happened. We wanted to explore this with the Casino but they didn't return calls from *SXM Weekly News*. The Great Recession and other events interfered. Whether it's still being considered... we don't know.

24. What's Going On at The Former La Gondola Restaurant

As reported, La Gondola closed several weeks ago. No new restaurant will replace it; the area it had occupied will be used by the casino itself....

25. Golfing Reaches It Peak at Mullet Bay Golf Course

Mullet Bay is SXM's only golf course. One was pictured for the valley immediately west of the Westin but the geography made it problematic. And another was conceived at Port de Plaisance but it never happened either. So Mullet Bay Golf is the island's only course. It has pretty views and a hefty price tag for day rounds. Anguilla is much better looking, users tell us, and it's cheaper, they say.

26. Places To Buy a Box Lunch

Busby's and Vesna Taverna, noted in article 19, are two great sources.

27. The Always Amazing Westin Sunday Brunch

Until 3pm every Sunday, the Westin put on an amazing buffet. It has dozens and dozens of choices; the menu is on two pages under lots of categories, For adults it's \$48 per person plus 15% service but look what you get...

All kinds of fresh-baked bakery goods; fresh salad bar (a meal in itself); breakfast bar; omelet bar; sushi bar (worth the \$48 by itself); raw bar; rotisserie; hot pot Asian soups; Indian curry; "basics" including beef stroganoff, ratatouille, and more; pasta bar; shawarma; pies, cakes, French pastries; plus the mango and white chocolate fountain.

You can diet after you go home....

28. About Our New Vacation Giveaway

You're in exactly the right place -- it will be formally announced right here and is open exclusively to readers of *SXM Weekly News*. You can tell your friends and family, but nobody is eligible unless they are subscribers to Weekly News (free).

If you're a passalong reader, that doesn't count. Subscribe to *SXM Weekly News* on our home page (under Free Newsletters) at www.everythingsxm.com. Giveaway details coming. It will celebrate our 1000th SXM Weekly News in July.

29. "Celine Too" Hits The Water to Huge Accolades; How To Contact Capt. Neil Roebert

Docked now behind Le Gourmet Marche in Simpson Bay and visible from Airport Road, the Celine Too motor yacht is one huge it. It was named for Neil's catamaran Celine which sank when a larger craft collided with it while it was docked during Hurricane Gonzalo in October. Neil's phone has been problematic but should be fixed this week (some time after today, 1/18); it's 721-526-1170. In the meantime, the best email for him is celinechartersxm@gmail.com.

30. About Our Members-Only Sunset Cruises

All sunset cruises are now sailed on Tuesdays -- sometimes on Sundays and Tuesday when demand requires. Sailed on Neil's big new motor yacht Celine Too, they are half price for members only. See the Secret Site for details; reservations are required. Your JMB Membership Card is also required, as it is for all JMB benefits and discounts. Go ... it's a beautiful experience on an amazing new motor yacht and it's still very short money, thanks to your JMB membership.

Not a member? See the beginning of this section for details. Prices are always low....

31. When We Do a Giveaway, Here's Why You Must Answer Your Phone

We will be listing all the winners of our nine-vacation giveaway "Thanks Four Million" on our site this week. But we need to note something here.

The first person we call wins it all, if they answer their phone. That's why we ask on our signup form that you give us a phone number you can always answer.

When we gave away lots of vacations two years ago, the first person we called was a woman in Jamestown, Rhode Island. Her phone went to voice mail. We hung up. She would have won the Grand Prize.

Fast forward to one week ago, January 12, 2015. We called a woman on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, from Island92's USA line in Miami. Went to voice mail. (Sorry, we won't tell you who these people were... we don't want people jumping off buildings.)

The next person to answer was Bill who was with his wife Susi in North Carolina. He nearly fell off his chair when we finishing kidding with him and finally told him, "You are our Grand Prize winner." Then we read the long, long list of prizes.

Note to remember: when you enter one of our giveaways, answer your phone; you might just be our winner. Bill and Susi won -- they had "never won anything" -- and they beat 64,000:1 odds. You can too.

Stay tuned for info on our next giveaway.

32. Restaurant of the Week: Lal's Indian Restaurant

If you've never tasted Indian food, it's time -- and Lal's is the perfect place to do it.

Located on the water at Simpson Bay Lagoon behind Le Gourmet Marche, it's casual and inexpensive and absolutely delicious. With friends, we returned last week, having several varieties of naan (oven-baked flatbread with garlic or cheese), Indian cottage cheese, butter chicken (soft, not butter-flavored), basmati rice, chicken korma (love it), and lots more.

Lal's is a SXM institution. We absolutely love it. Just go...

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 12/24/14)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 12/15/14)
SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 4/21/14)
Cugini (featured 12/8/14)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 3/10/14)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 11/17/14)
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 8/11/14)
Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 11/5/14)
Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 4/7/14)
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 12/25/14)
Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>
Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/19/15)
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 (featured 2/3/14)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/5/14)
SPN Cafe, <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html> (featured 8/18/14)
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
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/10/14)
Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 12/1/14)
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/>
Bylbos, Simpson Bay
Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

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

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) Returns Next Issue

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 12/31/14

Please see our site, www.everythingsxm.com.

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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To change your email address, visit <http://www.everythingsxm.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.

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