



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, 2015. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

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 228,000 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 #985 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:

- ***A Reminder of Big Changes Coming to Orient Beach***
- ***Announcing Our 2015 Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Awards of Excellence***
- ***One Week From Now You Can Enter To Win One of Three SXM Vacations***
- ***Updated Hurricane Season Outlook***
- ***Sapphire Apparently Starting to Shape Up Against Complaints to RCI***
- ***Prepare for a \$45,000 Invoice You Didn't Expect***
- ***How Does Topper Do It?***
- ***Where To Get The Lowest Airfares***
- ***Photographing Monarch Butterflies in SXM***
- ***Restaurant of the Week: Le Pressoir***
- ***Big Fireworks Coming to SXM for New Years Eve; How You Can Help***
- ***Huge Causeway Pre-Carnival "Jump Up" Saturday Night March 14***
- ***Sea Turtle Nesting Season Starts; Avoid Nesting Sites***

19 new stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale 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 Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 3/21/2015 3/28/2015 Week 12 Towers at Mullet Bay Quiet 4-star Crown Resort located directly between Maho and Cupecoy Beaches. Beautiful, extra-large, ground floor, one-Bedroom (Sleeps 4) deluxe Suite # 104. - Unit contains fully-equipped Kitchen with Microwave, Dining Area, marble Bathroom, large master Bedroom, and large living area with Sofa Bed, TV, VCR, and CD Players. Resort overlooks beautiful, large, outdoor Swimming Pool, Simpson Bay Lagoon, Marigot, and Point Pirouette, and is within walking distance of

several gourmet Restaurants like La Gondola Ristorante and Le Montmartre Brasserie Parisienne; as well as to both the Atlantis Casino and Casino Royale. Resort contains immaculate well-kept Grounds housing Pool and Pool Bar (serving light Breakfasts and Lunches); and is within short walking distance to the only Golf Course on the Island and to Mullet Bay Beach. \$1,100.00 Harold (732-255-1790) orthodoc1@optonline.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/7/2015 3/7/2015 Weeks 6, 7, 8 & 9 The Villas @ Simpson Bay Resort & Marina 2-bedroom suite, 5th fl. king bed/master bedroom, 2 Murphy beds/living room, full kitchen, dining/living room, spacious bathroom, separate double vanity area. 2nd bedroom (Lock-out) (Separate entrance) able to rent out. 2 full beds, small kitchen - dorm size refrigerator, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, NO STOVE; spacious bathroom/separate double vanity area. 2 Balconies overlooking Simpson Bay & Pool. Resort - Restaurants, Casino, tennis courts, pools, deli, shops, Marina, beach, free kayaks, beach equipment, Beach Bar, Fitness Center. Plenty of Restaurants - walking distance. \$23,000 for each Week Jo 914-761-7451 scope4@frankenspeed.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. Weather: Hot, Dry
2. Updated Hurricane Season Outlook
3. Where To Get The Lowest Airfares
4. How To Get The Lowest-Cost Airfares, Hotels, Cruises, and Tour Packages Worldwide (Repeat)

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

5. Sapphire Apparently Starting to Shape Up Against Complaints to RCI
6. Interviews Still Expected With Tourism Minister Claret Connor and Airport Head Regina Labega

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

-- 6a. Prepare for a \$45,000 Invoice You Didn't Expect

7. Announcing Our 2015 Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Awards of Excellence

8. One Week From Now You Can Enter To Win One of Three SXM Vacations
9. Some New Airport Routes May Hinge on New Airport Taxiway
10. Interview Coming With SXM Airport's Regina Labega
11. Like Snow-Hit States in the US & Canada, SXM Potholes are Being Fixed
12. Photographing Monarch Butterflies in SXM
13. A Reminder of Big Changes Coming to Orient Beach
14. Restaurant of the Week: Le Pressoir
15. Big Fireworks Coming to SXM for New Years Eve; How You Can Help
16. Huge Causeway Pre-Carnival "Jump Up" Saturday Night March 14
17. Sea Turtle Nesting Season Starts; Avoid Nesting Sites
18. How Does Topper Do It?

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 2/24/15]

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. Weather: Hot, Dry

Although there are still showers this time of year, they are few, far between and usually very light. It's hot and dry here in SXM -- a great time to come to down and relax after one of the worst North American winters ever

2. Updated Hurricane Season Outlook

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather, www.crownweather.com, our go-to source for tropical weather info, had some interesting things to say recently about the next Atlantic hurricane season. It begins June 1 and ends November 30.

Here are his comments. We strongly urge everyone who is prospectively in the crosshairs of storms this summer to subscribe to Rob's service -- it is very low priced, extremely valuable info.

Here are my latest thoughts given the latest information in regarding to the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season:

Eastern Atlantic: It appears that the eastern Atlantic east of 50 West Longitude may be quiet this year with below average activity. The ocean water temperatures across the eastern Atlantic are colder than average and it appears that it may remain that way right into much of the Hurricane season.[The reason for the cold ocean, experts say, is melting polar ice. -Ed.]

Caribbean: The Caribbean is a "wild card" as we could see two types of development this Hurricane season in the Caribbean. The first is from disturbances tracking into the Caribbean from the east and second from homegrown development from frontal boundaries sinking southward. If the current Madoki El Niño translates into a eastern Pacific centered traditional El Niño, then the Caribbean could be shut down due to strong wind shear caused by the weather patterns resulting from the traditional El Niño conditions.

US Southeast Coast & The Bahamas: Ocean water temperatures off of the US Southeast coast and in the Bahamas are forecast to be warmer than average this hurricane season. I think that we will see a fair amount of tropical activity in the subtropics this hurricane season rather than across the tropical latitudes. This would potentially open up the US Southeast Coast, the Bahamas and potentially the entire US East Coast to impacts from tropical storms/hurricanes. I think that we will need to watch close to home for those homebrew type systems that form at the end of fronts or from upper level low pressure systems.

Gulf Of Mexico: I think that the Gulf of Mexico could also be open to tropical cyclone development this hurricane season as it is extremely unusual to have two straight hurricane seasons in a row with no more than one weak tropical storm. In addition, ocean water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico are expected to be above average this summer into the fall and any homegrown type systems coming off of fronts would be able to feed off of these warm waters. Even if there are some traditional eastern Pacific centered El Niño conditions, the Gulf of Mexico is normally not affected as much by shear and will be an area that will need close watching.

With all of this said, I want to remind you that it's only March 6th and a lot can and probably will change between now and June 1st, and as always, all it takes is one. [Issued by Rob 3/6/15.]

3. Where To Get The Lowest Airfares

The Low Fare Grid on our Secret Website gives you guidelines to the lowest fares we see for travel to SXM from about 100 airports, The Grid page includes lots of fare guidance, so look at it closely.

Following the guidelines in the Grid, use our partner site, www.flytravelgo.com, an Orbitz partner; you can buy low fares there and we get a commission (it helps us keep helping you.)

You can also use SkyMed Travel Club for bookings. See much more on them below.

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

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

5. Sapphire Apparently Starting to Shape Up Against Complaints to RCI

Philippe & Jean Verdier, a son and father combo, have been widely accused of collecting Annual Maintenance Fees from thousands of Sapphire Resort timeshare owners but providing little maintenance.

Consequently, timeshare owners have hit Sapphire where it hurts by deluging Resort Condominiums International (RCI) with lots of complaints. Many weeks ago, RCI suspended its relationship with Sapphire, which meant Sapphire timeshare owners could not trade out of the resort and owners elsewhere couldn't trade in, a big hit to Sapphire's pocketbook.

RCI has given Sapphire until May to fix a long list of problems. RCI says it will re-examine Sapphire in May and decide what to do with them.

From what a statistically insignificant number of Sapphire timeshare owners have told us, Sapphire is turning the corner on maintenance. Whether they now actually get it, we don't know. But that -- so far -- is the impression we're getting.

Sapphire timeshare owners who want to tell us of their own experience this winter at that resort should write to [susan\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susan[at]jmbcommunications.com) with the subject Sapphire Comments. Keep them under 500 words -- we'll publish what we can.

6. Interviews Still Expected With Tourism Minister Claret Connor and Airport Head Regina

Labega

We've requested interviews with both SXM Tourism Minister Claret Connor and with Airport head Regina Labega. Connor has many responsibilities and is up to his eyeballs in work; we're sure we will talk with him soon, about Caravanserai and other key issues of concern to tourists.

Ms. Labega recently lost her dad and has our sincere sympathies. We hope to speak with her soon as well.

SECTION 3: Island

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

Story 6a:

Prepare for a \$45,000 Invoice You Didn't Expect

Can you come up with \$45,000 or more in cash in a sudden unexpected major emergency? You'd need that much or more to hire a medical evacuation jet to take you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling -- if you can find one and handle all the many details involved. If you're a SkyMed member, the trip costs \$0 and you get it done with one phone call.

SkyMed takes you home in a hurry on an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you or your spouse / partner or minor child 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 \$45,000 to \$50,000 or more -- sometimes far more.

And outside the US, your health insurance probably covers nothing. Medicare covers nothing outside the USA and if you're from Canada, anywhere outside your province is a huge problem.

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, for just \$99/year more. 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 JMB 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 need to renew your SkyMed annual or Ultimate plan, you can do so 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.

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.

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/jmbsxm (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. 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.

7. Announcing Our 2015 Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Awards of Excellence

For the third consecutive year, the Editors of Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin have selected top SXM businesses to receive our prestigious Award of Excellence. This year's 31 Awards awards have been presented "For outstanding managerial leadership, strategy development, customer orientation, and strategy implementation" -- in other words competence, quality, and delivery of a superior customer experience. Our 2015 awards have now been presented across the island and are being proudly displayed at these fine establishments, listed in alphabetical order:

[AIA Massage](#), Tricia Altenau, Ti Spa, L'Esplanade Hotel, Grand Case
[Baker's Suites](#), Simpson Bay
[Mr. Busby's Beach Bar](#), Dawn Beach

[Canoa Restaurant](#), Dawn Beach
[Caribbean Gems](#), Philipsburg
[Celine Too Motor Yacht](#), Simpson Bay
Cugini Italian Restaurant, Simpson Bay (no website; they are located between Fedex and the Carousel)
[Daniel's By The Sea Restaurant](#), Dawn Beach
[Island92 Radio](#), Simpson Bay
[Island Pizza](#), Dawn Beach
[iZi Ristorante Italiano](#), Simpson Bay
[Jet Blue Airways](#), SXM
Johney Burger, SXM Airport
[L'Esplanade Boutique Hotel](#), Grand Case
[Le Pressoir](#) French Restaurant, Grand Case
Orange Grove Pharmacy, Cole Bay
[Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#), Oyster Pond
[Pier Grocer](#), Dawn Beach
[Pineapple Pete Restaurant / SPN Sports Bar](#), Simpson Bay
[Princess Heights Boutique Hotel](#), Dawn Beach
[Princess Juliana Airport](#), SXM
[Spiga](#) Italian Restaurant, Grand Case
[Summit Resort Hotel](#), Cupecoy Beach
Super Dollar Store, (no website, located on L. B. Scott Rd., Mary's Fancy, Dutch Side)
[Sushiitto](#), Port de Plaisance Casino, Cole Bay
[The St. Maarten Party Bus](#) (There's only one Party Bus)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Beach
[Toppers and Toppers By The Sea](#), Simpson Bay
[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#), SXM
[Vesna Taverna](#), Simpson Bay
[Zhaveri Jewelers](#), Philipsburg

8. One Week From Now You Can Enter To Win One of Three SXM Vacations

Our Three Vacation Giveaway is about to begin:

To celebrate the 1,000th edition of SXM Weekly News, coming this summer, we are giving away three SXM vacations. They are at:

[Summit Resort Hotel](#), Cupecoy Beach;
[L'Esplanade Boutique Hotel](#), Grand Case; and
[Club Fantastico Naturist Resort](#), Orient Beach

These vacations will be awarded only to SXM Weekly News readers who enter the giveaway. If you're a pass-along reader of *SXM Weekly News* subscribe directly to become eligible. Only subscribers can enter and win these vacations. (*Weekly News* is free).

To subscribe, go to www.everythingsxm.com and select our 2014 Weekly News list among our "Free Newsletters." Once we open the contest to entries, we will check all entries to be sure they are Weekly News subscribers; if not, your entry will be discarded.

Next week we'll tell you how to enter. Watch for your Weekly News edition.

Doesn't Your Business/Practice Deserve a Website That Works?

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

Marketing-Centric / Client-Focused, and created by JMB!

"Websites that Work," part of JMB Communications, offers [substantial discounts](#) to JMB Website Supporters members.

Many helpful website-creation-related articles are on our site, which was just revised. Check it out.

9. Some New Airport Routes May Hinge on New Airport Taxiway

A new parallel taxiway, coming to Princess Juliana Airport, will enable the main runway there to become more productive since it will virtually eliminate its use for aircraft taxiing. Some new service expected in SXM may start after the taxiway goes into service.

A number of new airlines are looking at SXM, and some airlines continue to expand service. Delta, for example, not long ago launched nonstops from Minneapolis MSP.

10. Interview Coming With SXM Airport's Regina Labega

We will soon interview airport chief Regina Labega and we'll tell you what we learn.

11. Like Snow-Hit States in the US & Canada, SXM Potholes are Being Fixed

The Dutch Side seems to get more potholes than the French. To fix them, the Dutch side makes them much bigger and forms neat rectangular or square potholes. Bigger and more annoying than regular potholes because they sit there unfilled for weeks until, finally, they fill them. Strikes us as both odd and counterintuitive....

The good news they're nearly finished fixing them....

12. Photographing Monarch Butterflies in SXM

Monarch Butterflies like Milkweed plants -- either the tropical version with red flowers (now in bloom again in SXM), or the yellow-flowering cold-weather variety in northern states. The monarchs are out in SXM, though seemingly not as plentiful as they were when milkweeds bloomed here in December. So... when you see milkweeds -- you can take monarch pictures. Try doing it from a distance so you don't disturb anything.

Grow milkweeds at home to help monarchs; free seeds are here: <http://www.livemonarch.com/free-milkweed-seeds.htm>

13. A Reminder of Big Changes Coming to Orient Beach

In an article published early this year, we reported that all of the southern Orient Beach structures from Pedro's (at the border with Club Orient) to and possibly including Kon Tiki will be demolished, the beach depth will be increased, parking will be added, and new Caribbean style buildings will be built where current beach tenants may relocate, if they want. Most of this is being done by the Reserve Naturelle, the French nature reserve. They also plan to do something similar at Le Galion next door (Embouchure Bay), demolishing the popular and long-standing Tropical Wave business. Seems they don't like what they regard as eyesores.

The project is supposed to start in April. We'll keep you posted. We can tell you that Club Orient, next door, will not be affected, and has been very busy. Folks from the cold North are getting into the Club Orient experience, Nothing is Better, in a big way....

14. Restaurant of the Week: Le Pressoir, Grand Case

About 15 years ago or so, Grand Case was dubbed *The Gourmet Capital of The Caribbean*. It was packed end to end with fine dining restaurants.

In recent years, perhaps because of the former disparity between the dollar and the Euro, many fine restaurants opened in Simpson Bay. The total number of restaurants on the island now is over 420.

The quality of restaurants in Grand Case has never wavered. Our Awards of Excellence for restaurants includes two fine places in Grand Case -- Spiga for Italian and Le Pressoir for French. Both have been featured as Restaurant of the Week right here in the past. Spiga is coming again soon.

Le Pressoir offers incomparable French dining. Chef-owner Franck Mear has surpassed himself in terms of offerings, innovation, creativity, presentation, flavors, aroma, consistency - you name it. From the moment you are welcomed on arrival by Melanie Mear and her amazing staff, until you sit back after dessert, you will understand that *Le Pressoir defines spectacular dining*. Make a reservation and go early during your trip; you will return. Just an amazing dining experience.

Here are our recent Restaurant of the Week featured places. Most of these restaurants offer significant discounts for our JMB members. See the Secret Site for details. Log in using the orange login box on all pages of www.everythingsxm.com. Your entire registered email address is your username (in lowercase). If you forgot your password, click "forgot password" in the login box. Learn more about membership at the top of this section.

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 2/23/15)

Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 1/26/15)

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 3/16/15)

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 2/23/15)

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/28/14)

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/2/15)

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 2/23/15)

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.

15. Big Fireworks Coming to SXM for New Years Eve; How You Can Help

The Simpson Bay Fireworks Foundation has been founded to bring a bigger New Year's Eve celebration to SXM / Simpson Bay and lots of folks are behind it. (See the Simpson Bay Fireworks page on Facebook.) You can help by contributing your loose change after visiting contributing businesses. Here's the story:

Please patronize the businesses that are participating in the above fireworks celebration for 2015/2016. Feel free to donate your change for this big event.

Antillean Liquors, Avantika, Barnacles, Bavaria Restaurant, Boat House

Bon Appetit, Buccaneer Beach Bar, BWA Yachting
Caribbean Liquor & Tobacco, Charter House, Connoisseurs
Cugini, Harbor Queen, Isle De Sole Marina, Jimbo's
Labamba Beach Bar, Lagoones, Lal's Indian Cuisine
Lee's Fish and Grill, Mailbox, Panlaan, Piece of Cake
Pineapple Pete, Pizza Galley
Princess Port De Plaisance Resort & Marina, Prive
Rancho Steak House, Rhino Riders, Skipjack's, Soggy Dollar Bar
SXM Yacht Club, Toppers, Zee Best

More names to come...

For further information you can contact:

Lal Baharani, George Greaux, Ron Verhaar, Annie Blaum or contact Lal through the Facebook page noted above.

16. Huge Causeway Pre-Carnival "Jump Up" Saturday Night March 14

Many of you will receive this newsletter the night of Friday March 13 or during Saturday. A huge pre-Carnival "Jump Up" Caribbean parade occurs Saturday night on the Simpson Bay Causeway and in both Cole Bay and Simpson Bay through the evening and night. See Saturday's newspapers and join in. Go early; road closures are planned to make room for thousands of revelers.

17. Sea Turtle Nesting Season Starts; Avoid Nesting Sites

Mammoth sea turtles are starting to return to the beach of their birth in SXM and elsewhere. The process started this month and goes through November. The turtles dig a hole on the beach, lay eggs, bury them, and swim away. In fairly short order, turtles pop out of the eggs, and head for the water to begin the cycle again.

Leave the turtles and nesting sites alone. Many of these turtles are threatened or endangered. There are severe penalties for disturbing the sites.

18. How Does Topper Do It?

SXM is blessed with many fine restaurateurs.

But one truly stands out: "Topper" Daboul.

"You do what's right," he has said to us. "You give people real quality food at a sensible price."

Topper's profit could be higher if he cut corners like others do, but he won't budge from his high standards. "We never use frozen vegetables," he says. Only fresh vegetables are used at Topper's -- and the difference is huge.

It may be a small thing, but it's emblematic of his approach to everything he and Melanie do at their two restaurants. Even his spinach is amazingly delicious.

We needn't say a lot about Topper's. All we'll say is simply Go. Nobody else is Topper. He keeps doing what his conscience tells him to do, and that's all you need to know.

Topper and Melanie received our Award of Excellence for both Topper's & Topper's by the Sea for 2015, and nobody deserves it more. And he gives our JMB members some very special things -- see the Secret Site for details and bring your JMB membership card and applicable vouchers.

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?

2015 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 few weekdays. 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: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .

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.

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, 2015. 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

3/16/15 3/13 7AAS #985 5.6 apx Group 8

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2015. World rights reserved.

