



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

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

Weekly Tourist-Oriented News & Comments from SXM

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Part of www.everythingstmaarten.com

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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...

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

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

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TOP STORIES

(Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents); this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

This is issue #986 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:

- ***Government Tells Us It Is Working on Timeshare Consumer Protection***
- ***Simpson Bay Resort Rising To The Top of Timeshare Lists -- But Resales Are Slow To Catch Up***
- ***Top Timeshares: Royal Islander, La Vista, Summit, Mary's Boon, Bel Air, Oyster Bay Beach Resort, Divi Little Bay; Caravanserai & Sapphire, Not So Much***
- ***If You're Planning Travel, Do This - Just In Case***
- ***Naturism in SXM***
- ***Our Preferred Car Rental Providers***
- ***On Monday Night You Can Enter To Win One of Three SXM Vacations 14. What's Next for Theo Heyliger?***
- ***How Can "Daniel Busby" Run Three Restaurants Even Though He Doesn't Exist?***
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- ***SXM in Summer: Different Than You Think***
- ***Get It All: And We Do Mean All***

24 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 7/25/2015 8/8/2015 Week 30 and Week 31 Towers at Mullet Bay Spacious 1 Bedroom; Full kitchen; 2 balconies; 3rd Floor, overlooking lagoon. \$500 per week LESLIE 212 - 225 - 3120 latessore@mac.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/14/2016 2/21/2016 Seven 7 Flamingo Beach Resort, Simpson Bay, St. Maarten Large Studio, sleeps 4, king size and queen size pull out sofa, garden view with balcony, full kitchen, 2 TVs,renovated, infinity pool, restaurant on site, deli, casino and shops across the street, WIFI \$1,500 Ingrid 718 549 7806 ingridamer@aol.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

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2. Next Week: Results of Our Interview With Airport Chief Honcho Regina Labega
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- 22. Top SXM Restaurant Le Pressoir Adds Stunning New Photography To Its Site
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- 24. Patronize Awards of Excellence Winners

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://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 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 Stays Hot & Dry; Brush Fire Danger is High (See also story 19)

SXM news media hasn't covered it to a significant degree yet, but the island's grassy areas are bone dry now, with little significant recent rain. The island can use rain to reduce the likelihood of brush fires.

If you smoke, be careful out there; dry season can lead to brush fires from carelessly discarded smoking materials.

2. Next Week: Results of Our Interview With Airport Chief Honcho Regina Labega

We're interviewing Regina Labega, who has years of tourism experience in SXM and has headed SXM Airport for the last several years. We're asking her about the timing of the new parallel taxiway; the planned central car rental facility (like in many US cities); the FBO facility for private and corporate jets, which come here by the dozens; and the latest on future airline service, like Southwest Airlines, British Airways, Arke Fly, and more. We expect to publish the results of our interview here next week.

3. 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

4. Government Tells Us It Is Working on Timeshare Consumer Protection; What You Can Do

Unlike governments in the US, which constantly barrage voters with information about what's going on, the government of St. Maarten is relatively secretive, working in a number of closed-door meetings out of the public eye.

In the past, we've requested an interview with Claret Connor, the Minister responsible for tourism and a number of other areas. We still expect that interview to happen, but it's not imminent. We know he's up to his ears. We asked someone inside government point blank this week whether anything is actually going on related to timeshare owner consumer protection. The response: a strong "yes," though the government here doesn't give progress reports. (We've known this contact for years and he has always been straight with us.)

Regardless of where in SXM you own timesharing, you can influence what the Dutch Side government does. Write a Letter to the Editor on this topic and send it to:

Today newspaper: todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com

Daily Herald newspaper: editorial@thedailyherald.com

Specify where in SXM you own timesharing; it does not necessarily have to be at Caravanserai.

Feel free also to share your information with other St. Maarten timeshare owners: <https://www.facebook.com/Caravanseraitimeshare> .

Of course, when we do have our interview, Caravanserai will be question #1. The interview will be recorded as well....

5. Simpson Bay Resort Rising To The Top of Timeshare Lists -- But Resales Are Slow To Catch Up

The heavy floor-to-ceiling renovations at Simpson Bay Resort, already completed in most buildings, are delivering quite spectacular changes that according to timeshare owners exceed all their expectations. We've received a lot of mail about it.

A few years ago, Simpson Bay / Pelican was a pariah, widely reviled and not wanted. But now it is a Cinderella story with lots of rave reviews from timeshare owners and other visitors. This year, the big Marina building is being redone.

The price of resales isn't rising as fast as their actual value though. So, it's a buyer's market. If you want to buy a unit being renovated this year, do it now; the prices are at their lowest and will only go up after renovations have been completed.

See many rentals and units for sale at www.everythingsxm.com.

6. Top Timeshares: Royal Islander, La Vista, Summit, Mary's Boon, Bel Air, Oyster Bay Beach Resort, and Divi Little Bay; Caravanserai & Sapphire, Not So Much

Not too many years ago, we were receiving so many emails about bad timeshare resorts that we published the "Timesharing In St. Maarten Email Forum" weekly. When the complaints started to decline, we blended that publication into Weekly News but we still occasionally publish timeshare owner comments.

Bottom line, though, is that most resorts are getting quite good marks from their timeshare owners. The two biggest exceptions: Caravanserai Resort, where owner Manek went bankrupt and the new owner declared all timeshare contracts null and void and was supported by a local court. Supposedly this is being fought in court. The future there is as clear as mud for all concerned.

The other exception is Sapphire Beach, where the Verdier Family has managed to alienate many of its timeshare owners through what they regard as quite inadequate maintenance. So many complained to RCI that RCI slammed the door shut on Sapphire exchanges, in or out of Sapphire, as we noted again last week. That situation won't change for another two months at least, but lately we've heard no further Sapphire complaints. Whether the Verdiers are finally doing their jobs -- or merely putting "lipstick on a pig" -- is for RCI to decide, but for now, reports are improving.

The good news: the other resorts listed in our headline are all getting nearly unanimous positive reports. The only real complaints about Oyster Bay regarded last fall's seaweed invasion, but complaints about that should be addressed to Mother Nature. That resort did as much as any resort possibly could to keep the beach clean of seaweed. We were there Sunday and it was clear, calm, and beautiful -- virtually free of seaweed. If you own there, it's time you went....

If you want to buy or sell or rent a timeshare in SXM, see our Timeshare Sale / Rental page now at www.everythingsxm.com. We welcome comments from SXM timeshare owners but you must limit them to 250 words. Address them to susan@jmbcommunications.com.

7. Why We Don't List Flamingo & Royal Palm

Although most timeshare owners we hear from who own at Flamingo and Royal Palm like their units, what they don't like is the enormous Annual Maintenance Fee increases they've been hit with. Those increases -- which some timeshare owners allege violate increase limits in their contracts -- have made their AMFs about the highest on the island, much higher from what we've seen than any others on the island. In our humble opinion, that borders on profiteering and we don't like it. Diamond Resorts, a US company which you might want to Google, is behind both timeshares.

We welcome comments from SXM timeshare owners but you must limit them to 250 words. Address them to susan@jmbcommunications.com.

SECTION 3: Island

Just \$59/month Gets You Global SkyMed Medevac Protection: Go Nowhere Without It

8. If You're Planning Travel, Do This - Just In Case

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/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. 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.

9. Naturism in SXM

For naturists -- people who enjoy socializing on SXM beaches with others who don't like tan lines -- SXM offers a wealth of choices. You can see lots of them on the recently revised Beaches page on our SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

We'll let you look there to see which beaches offer clothing-optional recreation opportunities. But there are five other places we want you to know about:

First, Club Orient is the largest, busiest, and most complete naturist resort in the Caribbean. We've visited there more times during our 2015 SXM vacation than on all our previous SXM trips combined. You can stay for weeks at a time if you like, or a few days. The resort features its own power generation facilities (so failures are very unlikely), a great restaurant with no dress code, a beach bar (two bars in fact), massage, watersports, laundry, exercise room, grocery store, boutique, and more. The decline in the Euro makes the cost of staying there lower than in years. See www.cluborient.com.

Second, Club Fantastico is a hilltop naturist villa with spectacular views of Orient Bay, its own beautiful pool, great home cooking by an accomplished chef, beautiful accommodations, and attentive service. See www.clubfantastico.net.

Third, the southern end of Orient Beach at Club Orient. If you want to try the beach for a day, drive in at the main gate and pay \$5 to park. Safe and convenient. Just walk to the beach.

Fourth, Happy Bay. See it on our beach list. Beyond gorgeous....

Fifth, Cupecoy Beach. Also gorgeous...just go. See our beach list....

See our Vacation Giveaway story in this issue. One of those vacations is at Club Fantastico....

Lastly, never tried naturism and you're thinking about it? Check out our experience:

<http://everythingxm.com/sxm/beaches/tryingnaturism.shtml>

10. Reminder to Patronize Businesses That Have Earned Our 2015 Awards of Excellence

Most are already displaying our Award proudly. These are among the best-run businesses across the island. The list is alphabetical:

[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

11. About The 2015 High Season: A Problem With a Solution

Right now the island is very busy -- a big surge. Grand Case Saturday night was as packed as we've seen it in years, and the rest of the island is busy as well.

A glut of ships and cheap cruise prices have hurt Front Street. Most everyone can afford to cruise thanks to the glut / low prices. But on Front Street they don't spend. Stayover tourists, the ones who truly support the island (that would be timeshare owners), stay away from Front Street when many ships are in. And Philipsburg has lousy parking. If they fixed that, they'd get more business there and collect more taxes.... But so far, no talk of any real parking structure to accommodate loads of stayover tourists. They should do that, on a bond issue perhaps....

12. Our Preferred Car Rental Providers

This week we expect to finish posting new discounts for all our newest car rental partners on our Secret Website.

Members carrying current JMB Website Supporters Membership Cards and new vouchers that are either live already or about to go live can get discounts from Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental, www.tropical-tropicana.com ; Unique car Rental, <http://www.uniquecarrentalsxm.com/> ; Leisure Car Rental in SXM, <http://www.leisurecarrentalsxm.com/> ; and SXM Thrifty Car Rental, <http://www.thriftycarrentalsxm.com/> .

Mickey's Car Rental has not yet formally opened. We'll let you know what happens there.

13. On Monday Night 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, the entry will be discarded.

Later tonight (Monday night), this link goes live and you can enter online:

www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/weeklynews1000

Answer a few questions and you'll be good to go. Available later Monday night.

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.

14. What's Next for Theo Heyliger?

Theo Heyliger is the most popular and most accomplished of all SXM political figures. He is intimately involved in the new coalition government, through his UP political party.

He has done more for the country than most political figures in its history. His grandfather was Dr. A. C. Wathey, the "old man" who put SXM on the map for tourism many years ago.

Projects for which Theo provided both inspiration and instrumental leadership include the Dr. A. C. Wathey Cruise and Cargo Facilities; the total makeover of both Front Street and Back Street in Philipsburg; the Great Bay Promenade (boardwalk and the reclamation of Great Bay Beach); the heavy renovation / beautification of the roads at SXM Airport; the completely new main passenger terminal at SXM Princess Juliana Airport; and of course his latest, the SXM Lagoon Causeway.

The next question is, what's next? A tunnel to replace the Simpson Bay drawbridge? Tunnels through mountains to expedite traffic? These things have been mentioned but we don't think any is imminent. The cost of these things is paid by duties on items coming to the country in containers (all kinds of freight including food). Food prices are already high and it seems unlikely the government would do any project resulting in still higher process.

We'll all find the answer together and as always we'll keep you posted....

15. Restaurant of the Week: Canoa

If you rate the top restaurants across SXM, some that we've mentioned in recent weeks rate right near the top of that list.

One of those is Canoa in Oyster Pond, Dutch Side on the water in the Great House Marina.

Canoa differs from most other restaurants in that it is continental with a Caribbean flair. It is the baby of Sherman Marten, an extraordinary chef whose entire staff shares his passion for excellence. Whether you order fish, steak, or a vegetarian entree -- or their amazing salads or desserts or wonderful appetizers -- prepare for an amazing dining experience. For the last few weeks we've concentrated on some of the best of the best; Canoa absolutely belongs in that category. Go; you will long remember this outstanding dining experience. See www.canoasxm.com.

Here are a number of recent selections for Restaurant of the Week. Most of these give JMB Website Supporters members discounts. See the Secret Site for more info. Not a member? Start enjoying the best things in life at more reasonable prices. Look: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 12/24/14)

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/23/15)

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.dawnbeachxsm.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.dawnbeachxsm.com> (featured 2/23/15)

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachxsm.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.

16. Restaurant Question: How Can "Daniel Busby" Run Three Restaurants Even Though He Doesn't Exist?

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, Daniel's By The Sea, and Island Pizza are all under the same roof -- scratch that, the same wonderful canopy of palm trees -- on the beach at Dawn Beach, Dutch Side, near Oyster Pond.

During the day, the restaurant is known as Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and at night, it transforms into candlelit dining on soft chairs at Daniel's by the Sea.

The same man -- Daniel -- is chief honcho at both restaurants. So, he must be Daniel Busby, right? Busy guy.

Busy guy, yes. Daniel Busby, no. The restaurant was purchased years ago from its former owner -- that would be Mr. Busby -- and today it is under the watchful eye of Daniel Jurczenko. If you've been around SXM for a number of years, you may remember Antoine's on Front Street, where we dined many years ago. "Antoine" was (and is -- he is alive and well and loves early morning fishing) Daniel's father. So, being a restaurateur is in Daniel's genes. If he speaks nearly perfect English with a bit of a NY/NJ twang, that's because he worked there for a while and knows American tastes.

But enough history. Busby's and Daniel's and Island Pizza share an unbeatable seaside location. Busby's for unmatched breakfasts and lunches and Daniel's for unrivaled ambiance and wonderful classic Italian dining featuring our favorite, their homemade fettuccine. Specials at night sometimes include fresh snook caught by ... wait for it ... Antoine, the man himself.

Go. Once you dine there it will not matter that "Daniel Busby" does not in fact exist. The restaurants do, and they're great places to dine. See www.dawnbeachsxm.com.

17. Chickens Forever

For as long as we can remember, chickens roam freely on SXM. We're not sure they're there for eggs since the females are often seen with chicks. Perhaps they're raised for meat, which is not cheap here. Just don't be surprised to see them anywhere, including supermarket parking lots....

18. Monkeys, Mongoose, and Tarantulas

First: we have never, ever seen any tarantulas in SXM. Not ever. In the huge rainstorm that hit here in November, some folks said they saw them, washed down from mountain tops. You should not expect to see any when you come to SXM...

Second, mongoose -- which look something like beige to rusty-colored low-slung cats and don't like to be seen or photographed -- are around, but you probably won't see them either. We've probably seen about a dozen in the last 10 years.

Third, vervet monkeys are another story. They travel in groups so if you see one, a dozen more are probably not far away. We've seen one

on this trip, running across Oyster Pond Road. Wherever residents have vegetable gardens, monkeys come.

They also like alcohol and have been known to finish people's drinks outdoors....

19. SXM In Spring

Hot and dry and it's highly likely to stay that way. See next story.

20. SXM in Summer: Different Than You Think

If you live in or near big American cities (Boston, New York, Chicago, DC, etc.) you might expect that summer in SXM is hazy and oppressively hot and humid. But you'd be wrong.

Of course it's hot; you're in the Caribbean. But the ocean is in the low 80s during summer, and tradewinds naturally "air cool" land areas so temperatures are mitigated better than in the US. Think of a sea breeze on steroids.

Cooler than normal temps in the Eastern tropical Atlantic are forecast to yield fewer hurricanes than normal (a light season) so think about coming to SXM this summer for comfortable temps ... uncrowded beaches ... good airfares ... little traffic ... and low hotel prices.

It's worth doing: spread the word.

21. See World Renowned Artist Sir Roland Richardson Paint in His Studio...

We've done this several times and it is an immense pleasure. Sir Roland -- who is very friendly and conversational -- tells you what he's doing and how, and answers questions readily. It will be a true highlight of your trip: www.rolandrichardson.com

22. Top SXM Restaurant Le Pressoir Adds Stunning New Photography To Its Site

Many new pictures are up and this week more are coming. Le Pressoir is the best: see <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com/>

23. Get It All: And We Do Mean All

You can save a small fortune on your next SXM trip with the 237 SXM discounts we now offer our JMB members. You can get a full year of membership for \$59, or five years for just \$125. Amazing discounts on everything, short money: look here for more info --

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

24. Patronize Awards of Excellence Winners

In case you missed story #10 -- take a look. Our Awards of Excellence are an excellence recognition, not a popularity contest. Check out the winners and tell them you visited based on Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Award of Excellence, and look for the awards posted prominently at most winning businesses.

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

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

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