



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. "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address. For Contact info, see Contact Us at the end of this newsletter.

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 230,000 readers around the world...

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



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 has been further narrowed so it is now easily readable on all 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 #993 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:

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

- Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Group Cuts Off New Memberships, Appears Poised To Begin Offensive***
- Restaurant Comings and Goings: Lots of Changes***
- Total Blackout Hits Dutch Side***
- Huge Uproar Over Plan To Put Housing on Emilio Wilson Estate***
- Southwest Air Expands Caribbean Service from Houston Hobby; When To SXM? And From Where?***
- Will Jet Blue Be Expanding Service to SXM?***
- Maho "All Inclusive" Stance Hurting Maho-Area Restaurants; How You Can Help***
- Chikungunya Virus Update***
- Where To Buy Our SXM Euro Oval Stickers***
- More New Discounts Coming As We Move Toward 250***
- Time Running Out: Totally Renovated Unit At Simpson Bay Available for Very Short Money***
- Win a Week's Vacation in SXM from JMB***

25 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 12/19/2015 12/26/2015 Week 51 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Just renovated sleep-2 studio unit. B213. Stunning newly furnished and redecorated. King-size bed, full bath, full kitchen (granite, stainless appliances), dining area, AC, flat screen TV, blue-ray player, outdoor patio with table and chairs, lounges, facing olympic-size swimming pool with swim up bar, steps to beach. Restaurants, casino, tennis courts, bakery, shopping, marina. enjoy Christmas in St. Maarten. \$800/week Paula 973-376-8391 or 973-699-7091 Paula paular2064@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Totally Renovated New Unit Available; Steps from the Caribbean With All The Amenities You'd Expect

=== MUST SELL THIS MONTH OR TURN IT BACK TO THE RESORT, WHICH WILL CHARGE FAR MORE WHEN THEY RESELL IT ===== **FINAL REDUCTION TO BEST OFFER OVER \$1500.** =====

SALE: 1/31/15 to 2/7/15 (week 5) Simpson Bay Resort Marina 207, Newly Renovated completely redone (during 2015) luxurious 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, and a clothing optional beach is about two miles away. Unit features all-new stove, refrigerator, microwave, cable TV, WiFi is on site, sleeps four, very convenient. 2016 occupancy. Further Reduced to BEST OFFER OVER \$1500. Please contact Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com or call 508-747-8281

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. Hurricane Season Begins June 1
2. Southwest Air Expands Caribbean Service from Houston Hobby; When To SXM? And From Where?
3. Will Jet Blue Be Expanding Service to SXM?
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. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Group, TOCA, Cuts Off New Memberships, Appears Poised To Begin Offensive
6. SXM Smaller Hotel of The Week

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

7. Got Fire Insurance? "SkyMed Medical Evacuation" -- Fire Insurance For Your Health

8. Huge Uproar Over Plan To Put Housing on Emilio Wilson Estate
9. Total Blackout Hits Dutch Side
10. Maho "All Inclusive" Stance Hurting Maho-Area Restaurants; How You Can Help
11. Chikungunya Virus Update
12. Just in Case: Hand-held Bug Zappers
13. Sargasso Seaweed Update: where to Go
14. Deep Sea Fishing
15. How To Adopt an Island Dog
16. Like Dogs? Help Build Camp Goldendog
17. Where To Buy Our SXM Euro Oval Stickers
18. Our Big (Copyrighted) SXM Euro-Oval Luggage Tags No Longer Offered
19. More New Discounts Coming As We Move Toward 250
20. A World of Activity, at a Discount, from St. Maarten Activities
21. Restaurant Comings and Goings: Lots of Changes
22. Attention SXM Real Estate Agents
23. Restaurant of the Week
24. How To Enter Our Three-SXM-Vacation Giveaway
25. Time Running Out: Totally Renovated Unit At Simpson Bay Available for Very Short Money..

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 230+** 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. Hurricane Season Begins June 1

The 2015 Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1, less than two weeks away. Forecasters have predicted a less active season than usual, but it only takes one storm to screw things up. As always, we'll be watching and we'll let you know immediately if anything threatens the island.

In the meantime, you can check satellite images in the Caribbean by clicking weather at www.everythingstmaarten.com. If you are potentially in the track of a hurricane along the US East or Gulf Coast, or if you live in St. Maarten, we strongly urge you to buy a membership with www.crownweather.com, upon which we have relied for years for the most accurate storm forecasts. It is well worth the small outlay.

2. Southwest Expands Caribbean Service from Hobby; When To SXM? And From Where?

Southwest Air is expanding its service from Houston Hobby, where it's developing an international gateway. It has announced several new Caribbean flights but nothing to SXM - yet.

We remain convinced that Southwest will be flying to SXM sooner rather than later -- possibly as early as next high season -- but most likely from BWI as its initial main port of embarkation.

It could add Hobby later, but we don't think that's likely, certainly not any time soon.

See next story.

3. Will JetBlue Be Expanding Service to SXM?

We predicted JetBlue service to SXM from both New York JFK and from Boston Logan well before it happened.

We are now repeating two similar items we previously reported.

First, we're convinced that JetBlue will be introducing service from Ft. Lauderdale (most likely) or possibly Orlando (less likely) within the next year.

Second, we are convinced they will also offer weekly nonstops from Washington National, where they're expanding, which will have a downward pricing impact on competitive flights from that area (esp. Washington Dulles and BWI). That may still be a year or two out, but we do believe it will happen. It will also be interesting to see a possible fare war between Southwest and JetBlue -- Southwest from BWI and JetBlue from nearby Washington National.

We'll keep JMB members posted on whatever we see/hear about this.

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 anywhere 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 it almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We've been testing it for the past few months 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.

Normally, this organization charges \$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. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Group, TOCA, Cuts Off New Memberships, Appears Poised To Begin Offensive

Late last year, some Caravanserai timeshare owners -- armed with determination and no list of timeshare owners -- formed a timeshare owners association with the apparent eventual intention of going to court to squeeze some justice out of their situation. They promoted the association as best they could, hoping to share the burden of litigation since there is no such thing as class action lawsuits in SXM.

As many readers will recall, many but not all Caravanserai timeshare owners were notified by email last fall that their timeshare contracts with the old Caravanserai resort were null and void. A new party had bought the resort at

a bankruptcy auction and those folks had no interest in timesharing. Voiding the contracts meant that timeshare owners in fact owned nothing and had no rights at all, regardless of their "investment."

The island government has been talking for a long time about enacting timeshare owner consumer protection with teeth, but that still has not happened. Nor was there any obvious serious, lasting public attempt by the Dutch Side government to mediate and settle the dispute between timeshare owners and the new owners of Caravanserai, since renamed Alegria with the slogan "A world of happiness."

Effective May 13, TOCA stopped accepting new members. We infer from that that the group may be preparing to go to court sooner rather than later, though the group has made no formal announcement of its intent one way or the other.

Since there is no class action in SXM, any litigation that occurs will have an effect only on those litigating: it will not apply to people who are not a party to the litigation. We do know that the law firm involved is Lexwell, <http://lexwell.net/>.

When we hear anything further we'll publish it here in *SXM Weekly News*. To discuss SXM timesharing, visit this page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing> or go here to specifically discuss Caravanserai: <https://www.facebook.com/Caravanseraitimeshare>

Doesn't Your Business or 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 recently revised. Check it out.

6. SXM Smaller Hotel of the Week, #7

Beyond the big hotels like Westin and Sonesta Maho, and timeshares like Simpson Bay and Oyster Bay, which we've covered here many times, SXM has numerous smaller hotels with lots to offer.

This is the seventh in a new series of brief articles on many of those hotels. Below, you'll see a list of all resorts covered so far, most recent first. Watch for other articles in this series coming for the next several weeks.

Although it has only a handful of rooms, the Turquoise Shell Inn on the Dutch Side in Simpson Bay has very nice rooms, employees and management who are committed to doing what's right, and a fantastic location only steps away from both Simpson Bay Beach and lots of restaurants. It's an all suites hotel -- 10 charming one bedroom suites, each with fully equipped kitchen, cable television, an air conditioner in the bedroom, ceiling fan in the living room/kitchen, and free wireless internet. There's also free hotel parking and daily maid service. There's also a fresh water pool. You can learn much more about Turquoise Shell Inn here: <http://tshellinn.com/index.html>. Highly recommended.

Watch for another small SXM hotel here next week. Those listed in boldface type are prior winners of our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence. (Bear in Mind that we will be expanding our Awards next year to additional properties...)

Turquoise Shell Inn, Simpson Bay, Dutch Side <http://tshellinn.com/index.html> (5/18/15)

Le Petite Hotel, Grand Case, French Side <http://www.lepetithotel.com> (5/11/15)

Blue Pelican Resort, Pelican Key, Dutch Side www.bluepelicansxm.com (5/4/15)

Summit Resort*, Cupecoy, Dutch Side www.thesummitresort.com (4/27/15)

L'Esplanade Hotel*, Grand Case, St. Martin, FWI, www.lesplanade.com (4/20/15)

Mary's Boon Beach Plantation, Simpson Bay, www.marysboon.com (4/13/15)

Baker's Suites*, Simpson Bay on Billy Folly Road near Kim Sha Beach, www.bakerssuites.com. (4/6/15)

*Winner, Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Award of Excellence

SECTION 3: Island

Story 7:

Got Fire Insurance? "SkyMed Medical Evacuation" is Fire Insurance For Your Health...

Jeff has been recommending SkyMed for years and thousands of you have joined through him.

SkyMed takes you home® to the USA and Canada, home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Home -- where your health insurance works and where your support system is there for you.

SkyMed offers short-term, annual, and multi-year plans. SkyMed protects you either in North America and the Caribbean or virtually everywhere around the world... your choice.

Without SkyMed, a medical evacuation home may cost you \$45,000 or more in cash in advance, an expense that is 100% avoidable when you're a SkyMed member. And SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable when you pay your renewal fee on time -- renewable with no increase in fees due to advancing age or declining health. **Nothing else is SkyMed.**

Call Jeff any weekday from 10 a.m. Pacific to 5 p.m. at 508-208-8092 (that's for SkyMed calls only). If there's no answer, leave a message. He'll answer any questions you may have and can sign you up by phone.

Prefer to join online? Go to www.skymed.com/jmbsxm . JMB members should join at the following address to get significant members-only discounts: www.skymed.com/jmbspecial .

Note: SkyMed's top plan is the SkyMed Ultimate, a five-year family plan with global coverage available to JMB members for a low prepaid fee or just \$59/month if you prefer to pay monthly (requires payments for at least two years). There are several plans available to meet any need.

Call today for answers to all your SkyMed questions. SkyMed Takes You Home®.

8. Huge Uproar Over Plan To Put Housing on Emilio Wilson Estate

SXM is in a state of tumult over the government's apparent decision to lease out part of the Emilio Wilson Estate -- beautiful historic untouched preserved land in the center of the island -- for housing. Environmentalist Reuben Thompson writes:

Over the past twenty to thirty years, many residents; cultural- heritage activists, environmentalists, archaeologists, the late icon Mr. Emilio Johan Wilson himself and a number of international experts have called for the establishment of the Golden Rock and Industry Plantations, commonly known as the Emilio Wilson Estate, as a National Park and Protected Area. Numerous studies have concluded that the Estate is of immeasurable Cultural, Historical and Ecological value.

Mr. Wilson often expressed his desire to have the estate protected as he understood the significance of his property, he was however hesitant to trust anyone, including Government with the responsibility to protect and properly manage his estate. Wilson often expressed his concern that "they would look to build and mess it up", apparently he had good reason to be hesitant.

From the time Wilson purchased the estate in 1954 to his passing on July 5, 2002, Emilio kept his property in relatively the same state as it had been for generations, a tangible tribute to our many ancestors who were born

on, slaved on, lived and died on the property.

Based on my professional expertise as an environmentalist I too have often formally provided Government with advice regarding and submitted objections to plans for the development (read destruction) of the Emilio Wilson Estate in my capacity as a board member of the Emilio Wilson Estate and Sint Maarten Pride Foundations.

On March 18, 2015, Government one-sidedly decided to be in favour of editing the draft zoning-plan for the Cul de Sac area in order to facilitate the proposed Rain Forest Adventures Project, to grant the estate in long lease to Rain Forest Adventures (RFA) and to make provisions for the development of housing on a significant portion of this legally recognized National Monument.

Our Prime Minister, in his capacity as acting Minister of VROMI, perhaps through no fault of his own, seems to have been left with little choice but to formalize the agreements made by those who immediately preceded him as Minister of VROMI.

This granting in long lease of the Emilio Wilson Estate to Rain Forest Adventures for sixty years and in particular Government's intention to allow the construction of residences on this last bastion of Cultural and Natural Heritage is an inexcusable insult to our ancestors and constitutes a crime against our descendants.

There is no justifiable reason for these decisions which are in direct conflict with the area's status as a National Monument and will have immediate detrimental consequences for the residents of the Cul de Sac Valley.

Here we are, "Country Sint Maarten" where some of our decision makers constantly allude to independence, and the fact that we can handle our own affairs, yet Government forgoes a prime opportunity to showcase the island's ability to properly manage its own Natural and Cultural Heritage, opting instead to peddle the Emilio Wilson Estate off to foreign investors and to allow a housing project to desecrate the area. Why does our Government deem Sint Maarten incapable of managing its own heritage?

I can write a book or two on the reasons why Government's granting of the aforementioned long lease is improper and does great injustice to the people of Sint Maarten: the internal Ministry of VROMI documents on the long lease to RFA which were recently leaked and placed online, alone, are full of inconsistencies, inaccuracies and questionable decisions, but the fact of the matter is that over the years I have already said all there is to say regarding the Emilio Wilson Estate and there are no words to truly describe the consequences these decisions have on the wellbeing of the little that remains of our Cultural Identity and Natural Heritage.

Instead I will close off with some questions, perhaps one of our Honorable Members of Parliament will do their homework and care to call the Minister of VROMI into Parliament or take things a step or two further and advocate for the launching of a parliamentary inquiry into this case;

* Were the building and monument permits issued to Rain Forest Adventures (RFA) in 2012 placed on public review? Was the general public permitted the opportunity to provide input regarding future plans for the Emilio Wilson Estate, which is a National Monument? Was this information placed in the National Gazette as legally required?

* Was the Monument Council heard regarding the issuing of a monument permit to RFA?

* Considering Government is so intent on facilitating RFA, why did Government not opt to establish the entire Emilio Wilson Estate as a protected Area and make provisions for RFA to operate in it?

* Why did Government find it necessary to lease the Emilio Wilson Estate, a National Monument, to a foreign entity for 60 years, the equivalent of 3 generations?

* Were independent Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Social Impact Assessments (SIA) carried out with regard to the RFA project as well as the plans to develop housing on the Emilio Wilson Estate? If not, then why not?

* Have the residents of St. John's, the Wyatt gap, Saunders, Mary's Fancy been informed of the noise pollution which will likely be associated with the establishment of the RFA amusement park at the Emilio Wilson Estate?

* Has an independent professional analysis been made of the stability of the Rock Formation to the top of the Emilio Wilson Estate/ Sentry Hill considering that the formation has shifted significantly in recent years?

* Has Government sought input from the Monument Council regarding allowing the development of housing on the Emilio Wilson Estate?

* Does Government intend to revoke the Monument Status of the Emilio Wilson Estate to facilitate the construction of housing on the Estate?

* Have the residents of the Cul de Sac valley, many of whom attended numerous zoning plan meetings regarding ideas for the district been consulted regarding the RFA and housing plans for the Emilio Wilson Estate?

* What direct consequences do the housing plans for the Emilio Wilson Estate have for the water-retention

capacity of the area?

Rueben J. Thompson
Environmentalist

9. Total Blackout Hits Dutch Side

Giving credence to the notion in some quarters that the Dutch Side electric grid is held together by bubble gum and spit, all the lights went out on the Dutch Side a few days ago, thanks to a cable that overheated and various other problems. The outage lasted a few hours.

GEBE, an acronym for an unpronounceable name, is the Dutch Side electric and water company. It seems to find the causes for its outages quite readily but seems unable to prevent them, though their frequency has declined in recent years. This one brought forth a lot of anger toward GEBE but nothing from them about any permanent solutions being on the horizon.

10. Maho "All Inclusive" Stance Hurting Maho-Area Restaurants; How You Can Help

You'll read elsewhere in this edition about a number of restaurant comings and goings. We expect there may be more in the Maho area, in the wake of the Sonesta Maho beach hotel's move toward being an all-inclusive property. What that means is that the guests who had used restaurants in the Maho area will now disappear since they will be using the restaurants inside Maho that are included in their room rate.

We have never advocated that any St. Maarten visitors go to any all inclusive property on the island. St. Maarten is known for its restaurants — close to 400 of them — and the variety and quality of those restaurants is probably unparalleled on any other island. You would be depriving yourself of a major part of the entire St. Maarten / St. Martin experience by not visiting a variety of island restaurants while you are visiting SXM.

The switch to all-inclusive status by the big Sonesta Maho beach has hurt area restaurants -- apparently even the landmark Pizza Pasta restaurant next door to Casino Royale.

If you love St. Maarten restaurants, patronize them; Trattoria Pizza Pasta, listed here last week as our Restaurant of the Week and a winner of our 2015 Award of Excellence, is an institution on the island and continues to be one of the most consistent and excellent places to dine on either side. We urge you to support it and other independent restaurants across St. Maarten and think twice about going to any hotel that is all-inclusive on an island that has been known for years as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean.

11. Chikungunya Virus Update

A year ago, the incidence of the Chikungunya virus dropped precipitously after being near an epidemic level at the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014. Education programs, heavy spraying, and increased prevention activity by ordinary citizens has had Chikungunya at almost invisible levels for the past year.

As the dry season ends, the island will continue to be vigilant against Chikungunya and its relative, dengue fever. We will continue to keep you posted but right now, as long as you continue to use mosquito repellent, nothing much is happening with Chikungunya or Dengue across St. Maarten / St. Martin.

12. Just in Case: Hand-held Bug Zappers

About a year ago, we bought a small handheld bug zapper on the island from in a small Asian grocery store. The bug zapper arced in its handle so we returned it and got another. The problem was that current ran through the grid constantly, making it unsafe to touch even when the on-off button was off, and wearing out batteries quickly.

If you are in New England, or visit here this summer, and you want to get a bug zapper to take to St. Maarten, buy

it at Ocean State Job Lot. Their price for the last few years has been about five dollars for one that is bigger than most badminton rackets. It is safe, batteries last a long time, it is large, and it works. We intend to take the batteries out, bring it with us to St. Maarten next time, and use it. Our experience with zappers bought on the island may not be typical, but it was not positive.

13. Sargasso Seaweed Update: Where to Go

We don't know whether the Sargasso seaweed outbreak on which we have reported previously was caused by climate change, a temporary shift in ocean currents, hurricane Gonzalo, bad karma, or something else. But the fact is that it affected the island for a number of months, particularly East facing beaches. Whether it will be around this summer, we don't know, but we can tell you this: from November through this spring, the condition of beaches on the west side of the island was excellent, and it remained so. The southern end of Orient beach, use by Club Orient and naturist visitors, remained remarkably clean probably because it's protected by a coral reef.

During our SXM trip we had a great deal of fun at many beaches and we know your experience will be the same.

14. Deep Sea Fishing

Rudy -- of Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing -- knows exactly where to go to get you the kind of fish you're after. And of course he gives discounts to JMB members. See the Secret Site to learn about your JMB Website Supporters discount; bring your JMB Membership Card; and go here to learn more about Rudy: <http://www.rudysdeepseafishing.com>.

For more on discounts across SXM, go here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

15. How To Adopt an Island Dog

Various SXM associations are involved in dog adoption. Try these two: <http://www.ilovemyislanddog.org/home> and www.teamgoldendog.org run by radio personality Dr. Soc (Jeff Sochrin).

See next story.

16. Like Dogs? Help Build Camp Goldendog

Camp Goldendog is a future God-send to dogs across SXM. Read about it here: <http://www.teamgoldendog.org/CampGoldendog.html>

If you love dogs and want to help SXM dog lovers help dogs in SXM, read the article and help them build this shelter. The size of your donation doesn't matter -- even a few dollars can help. Check the site today.

17. Where to Buy Our SXM Euro Oval Stickers

For years, we've printed and distributed our own SXM Euro Oval stickers -- green lettering on a white background with twin palm trees in the background. They measure 5 3/4" x 3 3/4". You've likely seen them across SXM.

They're back and you can now order your own... We're currently offering them to our *SXM Weekly News* readers at economical pricing. They are one for \$5 or three for \$10. We use them on our cars and on smooth hard-sided luggage, which makes the luggage very easy to spot on carousels. They're printed on durable vinyl to last long. And they have a varnish coating to help protect against fading.

You can pay us through PayPal (have the payment go to jeff@jmbcommunications.com) but please specify what

you're ordering and where they're to be shipped. Include your phone number. Buy some for friends too... If you want more than three, just place multiple orders.

Or pay by check payable to JMB Communications but again please specify what you're ordering and where they're to be shipped. Include your phone number. Buy some for friends too... Mail your check to SXM Weekly News Ovals, c/o JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.

N. B.: Orders are shipped only to the USA and Canada. Allow five weeks for delivery. Questions about the ovals? Address them to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SXM Ovals. JMB members, please see our recent emails to you about SXM Euro Ovals and luggage tags for important info..

18. Our Big (Copyrighted) SXM Euro-Oval Luggage Tags No Longer Offered

If you've already ordered our big luggage tags, you're good; they will be in your hands within six weeks of the date we received your order.

If not, don't order them now -- we're almost out of stock. See #17 and order our SXM Euro Oval stickers instead.

19. More New Discounts Coming As We Move Toward 250

Lots more are expected to go live in the next couple of weeks -- members, stay tuned and watch your email for details.

20. A World of Activity, at a Discount, from St. Maarten Activities

St. Maarten Activities has offered discounts to JMB members practically since we started. You can see all the activities they offer at our exclusive site with them, <http://jmb.stmaarten-activities.com>.

You can make reservations directly with them but you MUST show them your valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card and a photo ID to get the members-only discount. Don't forget your membership card; it was sent to all members as an attachment from the address tracy@jmbcommunications.com.

21. Restaurant Comings and Goings: Lots of Changes

As we reported before, SPN Sports Bar has become Coconut Grove Restaurant -- with plenty of TVs. The early pizza is gone (it is available later), replaced by great quesadillas -- offered two for one as a special. (Pierre "Pete" Ferland is in charge and he knows how to deliver great food.)

Soprano's Restaurant at Maho has closed though it may reopen next high season.

The Prive nightclub atop the supermarket next door to Burger King in Simpson Bay has closed. Top guy Anish Chugani tells us he will be opening a different concept which, by the way, will be offering discounts to JMB members. We'll tell you more as soon as we have it.

22. Attention SXM Real Estate Agents

We are about to expand our services to SXM visitors to include full-ownership condominiums, villas, homes, and commercial properties / businesses that our readers can buy on the island directly from real estate brokers. Details about this program are available now to St. Maarten / St. Martin brokers. There will be NO limit to what brokers can offer through us and they will be able to update their offerings weekly. For details, email [jmbweb\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb[at]jmbcommunications.com) with the subject Real Estate Partnership Program and tell us at what real estate firm you're a broker. We'll send the info by email.

23. Restaurant of the Week: Island Pizza

Island Pizza, located next door to Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, has chairs out front. But if you'd rather have pizza by the water at Mr. Busby's Beach Bar or Daniel's By The Sea, just go there & ask for a pizza menu -- they'll serve it at your table.

Island Pizza makes great pizzas and calzones and has your choice of a ton of delicious, fresh toppings. Great place... you'll enjoy it. And of course, all three of these restaurants offer discounts to our JMB members. See the secret site for more info.

If you're still not a JMB member, get on the money-saving bandwagon. We'll soon be increasing to near 250 discounts -- a pretty nifty package of savings on everything you do in SXM.

And this week there will be a sale coming, celebrating Jeff Berger's Birthday (he says 39). The sale will go live by Wednesday night and you'll see it noted on our home page then -- www.everythingsxm.com. It will be a very brief sale -- so do check it out.

See more Restaurant of the Week businesses below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details. We'll cover another restaurant here next week.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 4/6/15)

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 5/11/15)

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 5/18/15)

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

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/4/15)

SPN Cafe (now Coconut Grove), <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). (featured 4/27/2015)

FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 4/13/15)

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/> (featured 4/20/15)

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

24. How To Enter Our Three-Vacation Giveaway

To celebrate the 1,000th edition of *SXM Weekly News*, coming this summer, we're giving away three SXM vacations. Here's where:

[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." We will check all entries to be sure they are *Weekly News* subscribers; if not, the entry will be discarded.

Enter to win your vacation here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/weeklynews1000/index.htm>

25. Time Running Out: 100% Renovated Unit At Simpson Bay Available for Short Money

Totally Renovated New Unit Available; Steps from the Caribbean With All The Amenities You'd Expect

Jeff must sell this unit or he'll turn it back to the resort by the end of May. Must sell now. FINAL REDUCTION TO BEST OFFER OVER \$1500....

SALE: 1/31/15 to 2/7/15 (week 5) Simpson Bay Resort Marina 207, Newly Renovated completely redone (during 2015) luxurious 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, and a clothing optional beach is about two miles away. Unit features all-new stove, refrigerator, microwave, cable TV, WiFi is on site, sleeps four, very convenient. 2016 occupancy. Further reduced to best offer over \$1,500! Email Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com or call 508-747-8281 *Photos are available.*

Doesn't Your Business or 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 recently revised. Check it out.

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://everythingxm.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 / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: 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 *2014 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

5/18/15 #993 8:00 a.m. EDT 7.2

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

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

