

\*\*\*Timesharing Special Edition\*\*\*\* #996 --- June 8, 2015 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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*

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Part of [www.everythingstmaarten.com](http://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 230,000 readers around the world...**

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



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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](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 #995 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:*

### **-- Has Sapphire Resort Been Sold?**

- Ten Very Different SXM Restaurants
- Top Ten "Coolest" Things To Do This Summer in SXM
  - Child-Friendly Places To Eat
- Introducing The "Other Side" of Philipsburg
  - Rare Lobster You Can Try
  - Orient Beach Construction
  - A Posh New Way To Go To SXM
  - New SkyMed Bonuses Introduced

### **-- Jeff's Birthday Membership Sale Extended (Ends Sunday 6/7)**

-- GEBE in Chaos

### **-- Ends Friday June 5: 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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

### SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/7/2016 2/14/2016 Week Six Royal Palm Beach Club Sunday to Sunday timeshare. Spacious and comfortable apartment located on first floor that is suited for children and handicapped people. 2 Bedrooms (King Bed each), 2 bathrooms. Sleeps 6 with queen sleeper in living room. Beautiful Ocean front views from master bedroom and living room; fully equipped kitchen with large dining room. Free internet in room. Resort has own beach, restaurant, mini-market, shops, complementary gym, and pool with swim-up bar. Free shuttle and facilities use of sister resort (Flamingo) nearby. More restaurants, entertainment and shops within 1-3 block walk. \$1,700.00 Loretta at 239-405-8661 [lolstar@aol.com](mailto:lolstar@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 NOW OR TURN IT BACK TO THE RESORT THIS FRIDAY, AFTER WHICH THE RESORT WILL CHARGE FAR MORE WHEN THEY RESELL IT ===== **FINAL REDUCTION TO BEST OFFER OVER \$1500**. OR MAKE A REASONABLE OFFER =====

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](mailto: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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

### This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our Facebook "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Page:



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

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_205834172765083](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083)

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

**Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):**

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive:list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

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

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

**Section One:** Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather [Go To This Section](#)1.

Hurricane Season Begins Now; Our "Weather" Page Gives You Lots of Info

2. Bone-Dry SXM Gets Some Welcome Relief

3. Celebrity Cruises Planning Overnight Stays in SXM & Other Caribbean Ports

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

5. How To Use The SkyMed Travel Club To Get Low Airfares

6. A Simple Choice For Air: Fly-Travel-Go

**Section Two:** Accommodations (**Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**) [Go To This Section](#)7. A New Way To Get To SXM - And A Posh New Place to Stay in SXM

8. Has Sapphire Resort Been Sold?

9. Hotel Update

10. "Staycations" Offered by Sonesta

11. SXM Smaller Hotel of The Week

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

**12. JMB Introduces All-New SkyMed Bonus -- Free Memberships in JMB When You Buy or Upgrade a SkyMed Membership Through Us**

13. Jeff's Birthday Membership Sale Extended One Final Week But **Must End Sunday June 7**

14. GEBE In Major Chaos (Even More So Than Usual) <http://tinyurl.com/qxdqcg>

15. Ten Very Different SXM Restaurants, And What Makes Them So Special

16. Top Ten "Coolest" Things To Do This Summer in SXM

17. Child-Friendly Places To Eat

18. Introducing The "Other Side" of Philipsburg

19. Seaweed Update

20. No More Luggage Tags But Yes, You Can Still Buy Our SXM Euro-Ovals

21. Orient Beach Construction: How You Can Be Our Eyes & Ears

22. A Rare Lobster Served at a Great Restaurant: Le Pressoir

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.**

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Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

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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](http://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](http://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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject \*Free Newsletter Recipient,\* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
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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 Now; Our "Weather" Page Gives You Lots of Info

The 2015 Atlantic hurricane season begins today, Monday, June 1, and it is expected to be light -- not many storms -- but it only takes one storm to be catastrophic.

Last Friday we did heavy updates to the weather page on [www.everythingstmaarten.com](http://www.everythingstmaarten.com). It offers current satellite images and radar loops of the Atlantic tropical basin. We've also reformatted the page so it's consistent with the rest of our site, and it now shows 2015 hurricane names. You can still click most images to access larger versions.

NOAA's "Science on a Sphere" shows historic hurricane tracks over many years:  
<https://www.facebook.com/scienceonasphere>

For hurricane tracks from 2008 to 2014, click Weather on our site, [everythingsxm.com](http://everythingsxm.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](http://www.crownweather.com), upon which we have relied for years for the most accurate storm forecasts. It is well worth the small outlay.

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#### 2. Bone-Dry SXM Gets Some Welcome Relief

A fairly robust tropical wave was expected to bring much needed rain over this past weekend (May 30-31) to SXM to ease what has really become a drought during recent months. It was welcomed not only to help gardens but also to reduce fire danger, which has been high.

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### 3. Celebrity Cruises Planning Overnight Stays in SXM & Other Caribbean Ports

This is good news for SXM; see the details here: <http://tinyurl.com/ndsy7pt>

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### 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](http://www.SkyMedtravelclub.com), clicking the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and providing the requested information. It's very important to complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — entering that code is what ensures that you pay nothing to be a member of the SkyMed Travel Club. If you fail to enter that code, you will not gain free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing.

Do join — you will not be disappointed once you've booked through them.

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### 5. How To Use The SkyMed Travel Club To Get Low Airfares

SkyMed Travel (see story 4) offers low fares but *you need to contact them after joining to buy them*. Once you sign up and are ready to fly, contact them -- you'll see what we mean.

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### 6. A Simple Choice For Air: Fly-Travel-Go

If you're looking for simplicity when you buy airfares, please choose our own [www.flytravelgo.com](http://www.flytravelgo.com), affiliated with Orbitz. Our site is profoundly easy to use and gives you very low fares -- and all its profits are driven right back into making [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) better for our members. Please do give it a try -- it has many loyal clients.

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

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### 7. A New Way To Get To SXM - And A Posh New Place to Stay in SXM

You now have the option of traveling to SXM aboard something entirely new, and staying on the island at a place so new nobody else will stay there before you do.

Your ride -- and your hotel -- are both *Double Century*, the world's newest and largest gigayacht that kind of kicks sand in the face of all those other piddling super megayachts. It is the biggest private yacht in the world.

Of course if you're not near the water, no worries -- just have your pilot fly you to the yacht so you can board, enjoy your trip, and relish the luxury.

All this is yours for a mere \$770,000,000, not including the jet, fuel, staff, and incidentals. But it is so worth it, don't you think? See much more here: <http://tinyurl.com/nck5cwm> . The name of the sales agent is in the article since we know you're anxious to put this on your black Amex card and get going.

Invite us, ok?

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## 8. Has Sapphire Resort Been Sold?

The answer: unequivocally perhaps.

Over the last few years, it has been no secret that Sapphire's owners, the Verdier family, has been interested in selling. We know they've had discussions with some people and have come close to closing a deal only to not see it happen.

Complicating things, last January RCI suspended them from its exchange program thanks to numerous complaints by RCI members and Sapphire timeshare owners. RCI was to re-inspect Sapphire in May to decide whether the outstanding problems had been rectified. We contacted RCI on Friday but they had not responded by presstime.

Regarding the suspension, RCI reservationists are saying it continues, as of now.

Regarding the sale of Sapphire, a number of visitors to the resort are saying now that Sapphire has been sold, though no one is saying to whom. Numerous phone calls, emails, and messages to Sapphire officials, RCI, and Wyndham, which owns RCI, have not been answered regarding the ownership question. Even the main phone number at the resort is usually not answered . . . and when it is, you're connected to an extension that doesn't answer -- and the operator ignores it...

So we don't know definitely about a sale. We suspect strongly that something is going on there but so far we can't confirm it. We're still working on this quite actively.

When we hear of any changes in the status of the RCI suspension, we'll pass that along at once to our JMB members in a bulletin.

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

[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://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. Check it out.

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## 9. Hotel Update

In recent issues of *SXM Weekly News*, we reported on a number of new hotels that are coming to the island over the next few years. We just wanted you to know that as these properties start to be developed -- mostly on the Dutch Side -- we'll be publishing all the details right here.

In the meantime, feel free to look at our past stories in our online PDF Archives:

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

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## 10. "Staycations" Offered by Sonesta

We never recommend any all-inclusive in SXM since the island has 400+ restaurants and we think going all-inclusive deprives you of a real SXM culinary experience. That said, some people like them, so this story is for SXM residents who want to vacation in SXM:

PHILIPSBURG/MAHO, St. Maarten (May 27, 2015) – St. Maarten/St. Martin is known worldwide for its superb resort accommodations, amenities and attractions. The best ambassadors of the island's splendours are its residents. For that reason the Maho Group invites residents to experience the best there is at Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and Casino and Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort, Casino and Spa.

With the approach of summer, St. Maarten/St. Martin residents can book their staycations at either of the all-inclusive resort as well as the exclusive Ocean Point, the newest crown jewel of the Maho Group's collection. Proof of St. Maarten/St. Martin residency is required at time of check-in.

Residents can nab a stay at any of the resorts for this weekend or save it for later in the summer. Resident rates are 45 per cent less than the regular nightly fees.

Double occupancy for St. Maarten residents at Sonesta Maho beach Resort starts at US \$121 per person per night. The nightly fee at the adults-only Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort Casino and Spa is US \$138 at per person per night. Sonesta Ocean Point Resort suites are tagged at US \$178 per person per night.

Residents just looking for short getaway of peace and tranquillity with all-inclusive carefreeness can opt for the fabulous US \$89 day pass at Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and Casino and at Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort, Casino and Spa.

Serenity Spa at Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and Casino is also opened for residents to enjoy a relaxing and calming escape. Highly recommended are the 55 minutes Guanaberry and Sugar Body Scrub and the 55/75 minutes St. Maarten Island Flow Massage.

"We invite residents to experience the Sonesta collection. We strive to exceed expectations and to surpass the regular benchmark of excellence. St. Maarten/St. Martin residents are avid travellers and are accustomed to high quality of service and accommodate and we provide that right at home. We look forward to welcoming you at one of our resorts," said the Maho Group.

Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and Casino is a limitless all-inclusive resort and is a spectacular "destination within a destination." It offers endless activities for your enjoyment and relaxation with a large pool with cascading waterfalls, four tennis courts, a lively children's programme, a swim-up pool bar, five restaurants and bars, a casino, nightclub and much more.

Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort, Casino and Spa is a serene Caribbean haven - and St. Maarten's premier, limitless all-inclusive, adults-only resort. Delivering a new level of sophistication and style, the elegant destination hotel is situated on a mile-long white-sand beach, overlooking Great Bay and the sparkling sea. With endless amenities and personalized service, the resort invites guests to unwind at three swimming pools, four restaurants, four bars, a spa and the Golden Casino for the ultimate vacation experience complemented by stellar service.

The five-star Sonesta Ocean Point Resort embraces a contemporary Caribbean style within a luxury, adults-only, limitless all-inclusive vacation experience. The 129 all-suite spectacular "resort within a resort" features three pools, three bars and the modern Mediterranean Azul restaurant while 24-hour room service and wellness treatments are complemented by exemplary service from private concierges, all culminating in the most uniquely designed hotel that St. Maarten has seen.

Inspired by beautiful aromas of the Caribbean, the Serenity Spa transcends you on a journey that can only be described as blissful. Whether you are looking for a romantic spa experience for two or just some well-deserved alone time, let our skilled therapist help you find peace, balance and harmony.

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## 11. SXM Smaller Hotel of The Week

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 8th in a 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.

There are few hotels located directly on quiet Simpson Bay Beach, and one of the better kept secrets there is The Horny Toad. We frankly have no idea how it got that name -- we've seen wild monkeys and wild iguanas and wild mongoose on the island, but no toads -- but regardless, it's quiet, inexpensive, small, very well maintained, and of course it's located on that beautiful tropical beach. Restaurants and night spots are in walking distance, though we always recommend visitors rent a car. Check out <http://www.thtgh.com/photo.html> (takes you to the Photo Gallery).

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.)

The Horny Toad Guest House, Dutch Side <http://www.thtgh.com/index.html> (6/1/15)  
Turquoise Shell Inn, Simpson Bay, Dutch Side <http://tshellinn.com/index.html> (5/18/15)  
Le Petite Hotel, Grand Case, French Side <http://www.lepetitihotel.com> (5/11/15)  
Blue Pelican Resort, Pelican Key, Dutch Side [www.bluepelicansxm.com](http://www.bluepelicansxm.com) (5/4/15)  
Summit Resort\*, Cupecoy, Dutch Side [www.thesummitresort.com](http://www.thesummitresort.com) (4/27/15)  
L'Esplanade Hotel\*, Grand Case, St. Martin, FWI, [www.lesplanade.com](http://www.lesplanade.com) (4/20/15)  
Mary's Boon Beach Plantation, Simpson Bay, [www.marysboon.com](http://www.marysboon.com) (4/13/15)  
Baker's Suites\*, Simpson Bay on Billy Folly Road near Kim Sha Beach, [www.bakerssuites.com](http://www.bakerssuites.com). (4/6/15)

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

### SECTION 3: Island

Story 12:

Introducing The All-New **SkyMed Bonus**  
Free Memberships in JMB When You Buy or Upgrade a SkyMed Membership Through Us

Begins today, June 1, 2015. When you buy a new annual or longer SkyMed membership through us, or upgrade from an annual purchased through us to a three- or five-year Ultimate membership, you get an equivalent JMB Website Supporters membership or extension free. *All JMB extensions or new JMB memberships are equal in duration to what you buy through SkyMed.*

How: If you're already a JMB member, [go here](#) to buy SkyMed or call Jeff Berger directly (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT weekdays) at 508-747-8281 for info or to sign up. If you're not a JMB member, you can also call Jeff or [go here](#). Either way, once you join SkyMed through us with an annual or longer membership, or upgrade through us, [email us](#) to let us know. We'll verify your SkyMed membership and once verified, set up your bonus. Applies to new SkyMed memberships or upgrades only. We've long done this for five-year ultimates so this is a major expansion of that program.

What SkyMed Is All About:

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.**

If when you phone Jeff 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmbsxm) . Again, JMB members should join at the following address to get significant members-only discounts: [www.skymed.com/jmbspecial](http://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 for answers to all your SkyMed questions. SkyMed Takes You Home®.

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## 13. Jeff's Birthday Membership Sale Extended One Final Week But Ends Sunday June 7

Here's what you get:

**SUPER LOW-COST AIRFARES:** We monitor the lowest available fares from more than 100 cities in the U. S., Canada, and a few in Europe and post them on our Low Airfare Grid, where you can access them 24/7/365. Our fares include all taxes/fees. Many fares for winter 2014 were \$449 or less round trip including all taxes and fees. Low airfares alone are worth the price of subscribing. Our fares should be considered guidelines of what you should pay since fare changes can happen several times a day.

**50% OFF MEMBERS-ONLY SUNSET LAGOON CRUISES EVERY TUESDAY** aboard Neil Roebert's Celine Too motor yacht, including free beer and other beverages. Good through 12/31/2015.

**FREE \$25 GIFT CARD FOR CARIBBEAN GEMS JEWELERS** in Philipsburg.

**FREE \$25 GIFT CARD FOR ZHAVERI JEWELERS** in Philipsburg.

Restaurant Discounts at dozens and dozens of restaurants across the island, some including a free bottle of wine or glass of beer or wine. Among them: Pineapple Pete, Coconut Grove, Sushiiito, Spiga, Topper's Restaurant and Bar, Topper's By The Sea, Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Island Pizza, The Stone Restaurant, Skipjack's, Byblos, Cugini, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, IZI, Daniel's by the Sea, Crave, Vesna Taverna, Le Pressoir, and many other restaurants across the island. [Offers vary by restaurant.]

**FREE ADS TO SELL OR RENT OUT YOUR TIMESHARE, VILLA, OR CONDO ON OUR SITE:** Sell or rent out up to 10 weeks you own in SXM or anywhere worldwide per 12-month period. Many owners in the past have sold or rented out their units in just a few weeks. Ads are free for members and there are **NO COMMISSIONS**. You can order highlighting to make your ad stand out. See ads here. You can also advertise weeks you've already banked with II or RCI -- no charge.

**BUTTERFLY FARM** discounts on admission.

**ST. MAARTEN ZOO** discounts on admission.

**DEEP-SEA FISHING DISCOUNTS** with an experienced Dutch Side Captain.

**TOP-CLASS HOTEL ROOMS OR TIMESHARE CONDOS FOR \$449 PER ROOM, PER WEEK:** With our exclusive discounts off Cheap Caribbean's regular low rates, you may pay less than the maintenance fees timeshare owners pay on the exact same units. Take more vacations for short money! (Members only; details on Members' Website. This rate available with "SXM Surprise" Packages only. Members-only code required.)

**SHARP DISCOUNTS ON PUB CRAWLS AND TINTAMARRE CRUISES** on Capt. Neil Roebert's catamaran.

**DISCOUNT ON THE ST. MAARTEN PARTY BUS**

**HEAVILY DISCOUNTED EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION PROTECTION** through SkyMed International, the program that guarantees to "take you home." Should you become

critically ill or injured and require an emergency air ambulance home, the cost is usually over \$45,000. Our members get about \$1000 off SkyMed Ultimate 5-year plans as well as discounts on annual plans. Much more on SkyMed is on our members-only Secret Website. SkyMed delivers emergency travel home from anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, or Costa Rica: short money for great peace-of-mind. Add protection worldwide for just \$99 more / year.

MEMBERSHIP REFERRAL BONUS gives you a free one-year extension of your membership once you refer just one individual to us who joins and mentions you. Get one free year of membership for every new paid membership you refer.

MANY MORE MEMBERS-ONLY BENEFITS: You'll receive complete details when you join.

\*\*\*\*\*

To learn more about JMB new sale memberships, go here (low sale prices: one year, \$44; five years, \$109.): [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

\*\*\*\*\*

To renew a current JMB membership, go here (low sale prices: one year, \$34; five years, \$79.) Use the Membership Renewal Center on the Secret Website. Log in using the orange login box under the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). Your username is the email address to which JMB Website Supporters sends you members-only emails. If you forgot your password, click the "forgot password" link in the login box to reset it -- the process is automated.

\*\*\*\*\*

To learn about reinstating a former JMB membership, go here (low sale prices: one year, \$34; five years, \$89): [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) If you have renewed in the last week or so, your renewal is being processed and all the info you need will be in your hands shortly.

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## 14. GEBE In Major Chaos (More Than Usual)

GEBE, the Dutch Side electric and water company, is owned by the Dutch Side government but like other government owned companies it seems to stonewall when the government wants to look under the hood.

In addition to its ongoing issues with supplying power dependably (much better in recent years but far from perfect), it has other serious issues including being rather rudderless.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/qxdqcg>

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## 15. Ten Very Different SXM Restaurants, And What Makes Them So Special

There are more Italian restaurants in SXM than anything else, so in this list you'll see a cross-section of them included. These are in no special order -- just many "different" places we love and think you'll like, too. Here goes:

1) Mr. Busby's Beach Bar: Located at the northern end of Dawn Beach, Busby's is probably the most perfect Caribbean beach bar you'll ever find. You'll dine in gazebos under a canopy of coconut palms, enjoying tradewinds while you savor great food for breakfast and lunch. Huge selection, delicious main courses, salads, burgers, and more. You can even order a pizza to be served at Busby's from Island Pizza, next door. They serve breakfast and lunch to late afternoon. (D)

2) iZi Ristorante Italiano: Although the dining is definitely upscale (and quite delicious), the atmosphere sets iZi apart from anyplace else. The service is outstanding (especially by Caribbean standards), the mood is upbeat and bright, and it's kind of like a celebration without end. Perfect place for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. - tell them you're celebrating something special and watch what happens. iZi is in Simpson Bay opposite Pineapple Pete. (D)

3) Ghazi Shwarma: Shwarma, a delicious medley of vegetables and meat, may be new to you but it has quickly become a staple of the St. Maarten diet. Ghazi, in the plaza behind iZi, is in our opinion the #1 shwarma provider in SXM. If you haven't tried it, do it; it's delicious and inexpensive.

4) Papagayo: Papagayo is the clothing-optional restaurant inside Club Orient at the southern end of Orient Beach, French Side. Far from being a beach-side burger emporium (though it certainly does offer delicious

burgers), Papagayo is a full scale restaurant service offering a spectrum from soup to nuts with lots of creative culinary ideas. You just needn't dress up to go; just bring a towel to sit on. Papagayo offers a wide variety of international dishes including the finest US beef, poultry, and fresh seafood as well as many European delicacies. From the bar enjoy an exciting array of tropical refreshments and all your favorite beverages. Jeff often grabs lunch here when he's on the island.

5) Sushiiitto: Pierre (Pete) Ferland's Sushiiitto at Princess Port de Plaisance near the casino entrance offers hibachi-style Japanese foods grilled at your table (including chef's culinary utensil acrobatics) plus great sushi prices like back home -- no high prices here, a nifty feature so you can eat more. Ultra-fresh. Highly recommended. (D)

6) White Swan: White Swan has been renowned for years as SXM's top Chinese restaurant. Excellent choices and service. Located in Simpson Bay on a side street diagonally opposite La Palapa Center.

7) Le Pressoir in Grand Case is, in our humble opinion, the finest French Restaurant on SXM and it is on thousands of "Things to Do Before You Die" lists. Superb atmosphere, exquisite dining, top-drawer service. You cannot ask for anything better, anywhere. Just go. The building, dating from the 1800s, adds to the memories. We've seen at least eight engagements at Pressoir over the last few years: it's that kind of very special place. (D)

8) Spiga is elegantly creative Italian dining in Grand Case from a crew of remarkable chefs and an attentive, knowledgeable staff. Extraordinary food, beautiful old creole building. Another experience you should not miss. (D)

9) Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay, open for breakfast and lunch every day and for dinner Wednesday through Sunday (may change seasonally), offers an eclectic collection of menu items including French, American, and Greek -- Saturday night is Greek Night. Love the place, and you will fall in love with Vesna and Yannick and their total passion for serving great meals. New location is across the street from Travel Inn with parking in front of the restaurant. (D)

10) Daniel's By The Sea in Dawn Beach is the nighttime incarnation of Mr Busby's Beach Bar. An incomparable location gives you fine dining under a palm tree canopy. Outstanding food, good size portions, attentive service. Save room for dessert. Great appetizers too. (D)

Note: we will have more choices here next week. (D) indicates the restaurant offers our JMB Website Supporters members dining discounts; see the secret site for details (JMB Website Supporters members only may log in).

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## 16. Top Ten "Coolest" Things To Do This Summer in SXM

1) Go to the Carousel and get a cup of their gelato. Great stuff, a bit pricey but worth every penny. Then... ride on the only carousel in SXM, over the waters of Simpson Bay Lagoon. Fun stuff. Discounts for JMB members. (D)

2) Go to the Butterfly farm early in the morning. Wear bright colors and cologne/perfume; the butterflies will perch on you to see what you're about. Discounts for JMB members. (D)

3) Go deep sea fishing with Rudy's in Simpson Bay; something new for many of you. Discounts for JMB members. (D)

4) Buy Etna Ice Cream in most markets. You will never be satisfied with any other ice cream after you try it.

5) Watch a sunrise from Dawn Beach.

6) Watch a sunset from Cupecoy Beach.

7) Buy a holiday present right now. On Front Street. In a Jewelry store. Zhaveri and Caribbean Gems and Oro Diamonte all offer JMB members \$50 Gift Cards you can download from the Secret Site. You MUST show your JMB membership card and a photo ID to use them. More Jewelry discounts are on the Secret Site as well.

8) Try Skinnydipping for the first time at Club Orient. Look:  
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/beaches/tryingnaturism.shtml>

9) When there's a shower -- stay on the beach and let the raindrops massage your body....

10) Spend the day on your favorite beach. All day. Get a box lunch to take with you and Stay All Day. (Be tan first.)

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## 17. Child-Friendly Places To Eat

Besides the usual suspects -- Burger King, McDonalds (had to list it despite what we think of it), KFC, and Pizza Hut, here are some great recommendations:

- 1) Pineapple Pete: Beyond being fascinatingly busy most of the time, the food is both outstanding and inexpensive. And they love kids. Simpson Bay.
- 2) iZi: Great food, very welcoming early evening for kids. Simpson Bay.
- 3) Vesna Taverna: Open all day -- go anytime. Simpson Bay.
- 4) Trattoria Pizza Pasta: They know how to keep kids well fed and happy. Next to Casino Royale, Maho.
- 5) Mr. Busby's Beach Bar & Island Pizza: Great location on the beach and great food. Dawn Beach.
- 6) Carousel, Simpson Bay. A big hit with kids of all ages.

More to come...

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## 18. Introducing The "Other Side" of Philipsburg

Some people think of P-Burg as a place to go for jewelry, lunch, and people-watching. It's good for those things but there's more to it...

Yoda, for example. There is a Star Wars museum run by the man who created Yoda on Front Street, opposite the Guavaberry Factory. If you liked Star Wars, this will be heaven for you.

Kangaroo Court, next to the historic courthouse, was once a warehouse for salt from the Great Salt Pond. Go to the restaurant and look at the walls...you may well still see salt seeping out from the rocks, to this day...

Look from Philipsburg east and you'll see a large hill that looks like it suffered a massive mudslide. It didn't. Philipsburg until 40+ years ago was two parallel streets -- Front Street and Back Street, with connecting alleys. Some people felt Philipsburg needed more room, so they excavated thousands of tons from that hill and filled part of the Great Salt Pond with it which is why that filled area is called the Pondfill. To see what Philipsburg looked like before this, view the entire video you'll find here: <https://vimeo.com/4943920> It will explain many things, too....

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## 19. Seaweed Update

It's back, on east-facing beaches. But there are still many beaches to go to and what seaweed there is is trucked off early every morning. We'll keep an eye on it, but it appeared last summer due to a change in the Gulf Stream. It has not affected the southern end of Orient, where the reef blocks it and anything that makes it through is quickly dispatched.

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## 20. No More Luggage Tags But Yes, You Can Still Buy Our SXM Euro-Ovals

We expect to ship out the last of our current stock of our big green SXM Euro Oval luggage tags this week but we are not accepting any new orders for them. *We are continuing to accept orders for our very popular SXM Euro Oval stickers*, however -- green lettering on a white vinyl background with twin palm trees in the background. They measure 5 3/4" x 3 3/4". You've likely seen them across SXM.

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](mailto: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 six weeks for delivery. Questions about the ovals? Address them to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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..

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## 21. Orient Beach Construction: How You Can Be Our Eyes & Ears

We want our readers to be additional eyes and ears for us across SXM. If you see or hear news in the making, email us at [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SXM Weekly News Story and we'll welcome your info. We particularly welcome your first-hand reports on new construction at Orient Beach which is scheduled to begin this month (June).

We also to invite you to join our SXM Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/> and post your SXM pictures and island trip reports there; we always welcome your posts. Note: Our 3,000th member will get something very special -- so join that group and see what happens.

Who will be our 3,000th member of the page? Maybe you: again, that person will get something very special...

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## 22. A Rare Lobster Served at a Great Restaurant: Le Pressoir

This isn't a New England Lobster OR a typical spiny Caribbean lobster either. It's something entirely different and even more delicious; look: <http://tinyurl.com/qa7nn8t>

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## 23. Restaurant of the Week

This feature returns in a couple of weeks. See past 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 soon.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 4/6/15)

Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 2/23/15)

Fusion, [www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 4/13/15)

Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://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)

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## 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](http://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>

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## 25. Time Almost Exhausted: Totally Renovated Simpson Bay Unit 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 this week (June 5). Must sell now. FINAL REDUCTION TO BEST OFFER OVER \$1500....OR MAKE A REASONABLE OFFER**

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](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) or call 508-747-8281 *Photos are available.*

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

[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://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.

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### 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .

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

Please see our site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

### CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.

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