

Caravanserai / Alegria Special Edition** #997 --- June 15, 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

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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 240,000 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 is 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/xsm/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 #996 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:

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26 new stories this week

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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 230+ 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 2/20/2016 2/27/2016 eight 8 Sapphire Beach Resort 5th floor studio room with deck overlooking ocean and pool area. Hottub on the deck with table and chairs. King bed and queen pull out couch with room divider. Full kitchen, cable t.v.. Marble floors thru out kitchen, bed room and in the bath area with tub and shower. 2 miles from airport on the Dutch side of the island. Full size pool and small one. See the web page for pictures of resort and other info. Check in after 12 on Saturday the 20th , and check out by noon on the 27th. 845.00 for the week Joe 1-424-501-3976 joe68madison@live.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Extraordinary Caribbean-View Condo, See Sunsets from Your Terrace and Distant Islands on the Horizon; Jacuzzi on the Terrace; Just Steps from the Beach

===== MUST SELL =====



SALE: January 17 to January 24, 2015 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Club on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean sea. Includes a Jacuzzi whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker, marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, min-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar -- all on the ocean. Close to Atlantis Casino, many great restaurants including Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie

Rouge on the French Side, and did I say incredible restaurants? Reduced to only \$3499 to buy (negotiable); 2016 occupancy. We also have weeks four and five available to rent or buy at nearby resorts; will discount if you buy or rent two weeks or more. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email jeff@jmbcommunications.com . Updated November, 2014.

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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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://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

Contact Us:

[Revised 2/24/15]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at support@jmbcommunications.com

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including *Low Airfare Bulletins*) read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Something Else To Do At SXM Airport

We want to give you a heads up to a terrific new place that opened in the SXM Airport departure lounge early this year: Johney Burger.

It is far from just another burger place. The woman behind it is Ms. Lillian Wathey. Lillian's dad is Al Wathey who along with his wife Rose owned and ran the famous Turtle Pier restaurant on the lagoon for many years. Those culinary genes were inherited in spades by Lilly who spent a lot of time selecting and taste-testing beef (and fish and chicken) for the restaurant. All the food is terrific and the restaurant gives you a great reason to get to the airport early. There may be lines -- it's that good. In fact once you go, you'll almost look forward to the last day of your next SXM trip -- the food so far is only available at SXM Airport.

Great stuff.

2. Festivities Coming This week At The Airport... We'll Tell You What & Why

Some hefty stuff is going on at SXM Airport this week -- next week we'll pass along complete info about all the goings on.....

3. Atlantic Hurricane Season Storm #2 Taking Shape; A Hit on Texas Looks Likely

You no doubt remember the recent Texas floods. Meteorologists are saying that could happen again this week thanks to the expected development in the Gulf of Mexico of the season's second tropical storm, expected to be named Bill.

As we recently reported, Crown Weather Chief Meteorologist Rob Lightbown says watch for home-grown storms this year -- storms which are born close to the islands or right off the US coast, in this case the Gulf coast. Such storms can form, intensify, and move quickly, making the events something of a surprise.

The weather page on www.everythingstmaarten.com offers current satellite images and radar loops of the Atlantic tropical basin. The page also shows all 2015 hurricane names. You can click most images to access larger versions.

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 very small outlay.

Of course, if you're in the path of any storms, always heed advisories, watches, and warnings from local authorities. Never rely on web info in life or death situations.

4. Airfares Rising; Use the Web's Simplest Airfare Booking Site To Get Low Fares

Most airlines sharply reduced capacity during the Great Recession, and started nickel-and-diming passengers for everything. The only good news is that so far most have resisted pay toilets.

Airfares are going up mostly through structural changes on how airlines charge us and for what. Bottom line, expect to pay still more going forward.

If you're looking for simplicity when you buy airfares, please consider our own 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 better for our members. Please do give it a try -- it has many loyal clients.

5. Fare Changes Coming from Jet Blue; Sunday Nonstops to Boston

JetBlue, we hear, is poised to raise prices this week, so if you haven't booked with them yet -- now is the time. One thing we hear they'll do -- though it is not yet confirmed -- is charge some passengers for the first piece of checked baggage, something they've been loathe to do in the past.

The good news is that Jet Blue has new Sunday nonstops between SXM and Boston, adding to its prior twice-each-Saturday nonstop flights in high season.

As we've reported, we do expect Jet Blue and Southwest to be further increasing SXM service. Southwest doesn't yet serve SXM but it is coming.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. Alegria Tries, Fails to Evict Marty's Dream Bar; Court Backs David, Not Goliath

Finally there is a bit of good news in the entire Caravanserai "Debacle" (as we Christened it last October).

Ray Sidhom, the gentleman who took over Caravanserai, bought it at auction from Scotia Bank last Fall after developer Manek supposedly went bankrupt. (We're told Manek is still on the island, allegedly selling some vacation-related stuff through offices in the Point Blanche area.)

Sidhom changed Caravanserai's name to Alegria, not to be confused with the similarly named antihistamine, and dubbed it "The Place of Happiness." He then notified some timeshare owners via email that their contracts were summarily null and void, an incident that caused 2500+ timeshare owners representing millions of dollars in lost personal timesharing investments to plea to the government for help. That help never came and timeshare owners vowed publicly to leave SXM and never come back.

More about timeshare owners disdain for Mr. Sidhom in a minute, but now back to Marty.

The Dream Bar has been a popular hangout for Caravanserai visitors ever since it opened several years ago. But thanks to Mr. Sidhom's ultra-feisty interaction with timeshare owners, Alegria hotel occupancy has reportedly been in the low single percentage points. In other words, you're far more likely to see iguanas there than people. Maybe even a wild monkey.

Taking another ingratiating move, Mr. Sidhom decided to kick Marty (remember Marty? This is about his Dream Bar) out, too, even though Marty had never been derogatory toward Mr. Sidhom. Marty took Alegria to court in what some people thought would be a futile appeal, but last week Marty won and he gets to keep his lease intact and will be operating at Caravanserai, Alegria, or whatever else it may be called for the next seven years.

Explanation: In SXM, buying land does not break business leases. That's why Marty's original lease is still valid. It's a big win for the whole island, since it relates to any business owner with a lease who is threatened with being forced out when someone buys the land their business is on. We're sure Marty simply wants folks to have a great time, enjoy the view, company, and drinks regardless of whether they're staying in the resort.

A hotel is a public place, and a bar in a resort is basically like a public beach -- open to all. Mr. Sidhom allegedly has tried to keep non-guests off his property but in SXM you cannot deny access to the public. Marty's takes good care of patrons... you should try Marty's Dream Bar when you return to SXM.

7. Continuous Alegria Coverage Coming for JMB Website Supporters Members

Things are going to get very interesting regarding Caravanserai / Alegria in the coming weeks. The Caravanserai "debacle" as we've said all along is far from over. (See articles below.) Consequently, when important news breaks, we'll post it immediately to our JMB Website Supporters members through email bulletins. We have a high number of Caravanserai timeshare owners and we don't want you to miss any of this. Stay tuned....

See next story....

8. You Won't Believe What Alegria is Up To Now

Unilaterally terminating timeshare owners' contracts and attempting to kick out a lease-paying tenant were not particularly nice things to do, most people say, but Ray Sidhom's Alegria Resort did both.

That's not all he is accused of doing.

"Capt." Terry Tamblin writes: "I was best friends & partners with Mike & Thelma King, who were brutally murdered on the island several years ago. I managed the several whole ownership units in the old Caravanserai A building. Since Alegria took over, things have not only gotten worse than the Manek years for all -- not only timesharers [but also] the whole ownership building. Alegria basically [took] large payments from us with their hardline power attorney for nothing more than water, sewer, electric, cable, garbage pick up, & pool use. We were forced to sign [an] agreement within a week or they [threatened to] cut all electric, water, and sewer. They then informed us we no longer had use of lobby, check in, maid, or maintenance service, and no ties to [the] resort; and [they] continue to charge around \$1200 a month until [our] contract[s] end in September.

"We were also informed Manek had canceled our insurance after our payments [had been made], resulting in loss of our elevator after last year's Oct. hurricane (replacement will be \$115,000). *The King families also were told the fully paid A building unit Mike had swapped for an uncompleted E building unit was also lost [to the tune of] \$149,000.*

"We have now formed a HOA [Homeowners Association]; but with little power or money we are little more than an ... unwanted step child while they try to force us out also. Now they are trying to [incentivize] expansion and hours at Sunset Bar & Lounge... After suffering numerous years of abuse from outdoor Bliss music until 4-5 am, the King families, I, & HOA are protesting to economiclicenses@stmaartengov.org and [we are] beginning to forge a plan with the King's ... contacts. If these outdoor loud music venues are approved, our still substantial investment into Caravanserai A building unit will become virtually useless.... Timeshare owners were totally destroyed ... and now it looks like there are no rights for whole ownership -- personal or property rights -- on the island."

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.

9. For Alegria Kingpin Ray Sidhom, A Bad Month Could Be About To Get Way Worse

We're hearing lots of well-placed "chatter" that all says the other shoe is about to drop on Mr. Sidhom's head. We're continuing to watch the entire Caravanserai / Alegria situation with intense closeness and the minute we have the meat of the story, we'll send it to our paying JMB Website Supporters members. We'll also post it after that to our "Caravanserai Timeshare Owners" page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Caravanseraitimeshare>

There are many, many reasons for you to be a JMB member besides those 237+ discounts we've told you about. Join today and help support SXM Weekly News, your key source of tourist-oriented island news. Please join here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Meanwhile ... the airport continues to look closely into the buildings Alegria proposes to erect close to the property line next to SXM Airport. As you recall, in light of the (apparently) proposed seven-story parking garage that Alegria/Choice/Ascend/Caravanserai (or whatever its next name may be) wants to construct within a few hundred feet of the runway, we asked Airport Managing Director Regina Labega for a quick-take reaction. We said we thought it appeared to be too tall and too close to the runway. She replied, "You're right, and it has our attention."

It ain't over 'til it's over, folks.

10. Got Opinions on SXM Timesharing? Here is Where and How to Express Them

Here's where to address Letters to the Editor:

Today newspaper: todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com

Daily Herald newspaper: editorial@thedailyherald.com

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

Feel free also to share your information with other St. Maarten timeshare owners:

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

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. Check it out.

11. Platinum Member Timeshare Ad Benefits Enhanced

JMB Website Supporters have 237+ discounts and other benefits through their memberships, one of which has always been the ability to rent out or sell timeshares and other properties in SXM and worldwide through our site. The word limit has always been 125 except for Platinum Status members. Their word limit was 150 but it has just been increased to 175. Platinum-status member ads can also contain photos -- and Platinum Status JMB member ads *always appear before all other ads for the same date on our page*. If you ever advertise timeshares or other property in SXM for rent or sale, join us. Now more than ever, JMB Website Supporters memberships really work for you. More: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

12. 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 feature returns soon. Previously featured:

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.lepetiithotel.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 13:

Traveling? Do Not Miss Big SXM Discounts Thru Free Memberships in JMB When You Buy or Upgrade a SkyMed Membership Through Us

Now in Effect: When you buy a new annual or longer SkyMed membership through us, or upgrade with us from an annual SkyMed membership purchased through us to a three- or five-year Ultimate or NATO 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. If you'd prefer to call SkyMed directly, call 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arizona time, 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan. Tell her you are a JMB member (she'll confirm that).

Prefer to call SkyMed directly? Phone 1-800-475-9633 weekdays Arizona time and ask for Nan. If you're a JMB member, tell her; members get significant discounts. Nan can answer any questions and sign you up, as can Jeff (see above paragraph.)

After you buy from us, notify JMB Website Supporters Membership Services at support@jmbcommunications.com. When you buy SkyMed from us for one, three, or five years, we extend your JMB membership by the same number of years on us.

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 a machine answers, 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/jmbxsm . Again, 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 for answers to all your SkyMed questions. SkyMed Takes You Home®.

14. Post Your Orient Beach Bar / Restaurant Demolition Pix on Our Facebook Page

As we've reported since last winter, all businesses between Kon Tiki and Pedro's on Orient Beach will be demolished as part of a heavy program to expand / preserve the beach. New homes for many of the same businesses will be erected farther away from the water and are expected to be occupied / functional by this coming high season.

Most businesses have already taken away anything they want to salvage; most closed earlier. The actual heavy demolition is now scheduled to start June 22. The buildings are mostly wood so it shouldn't take long to level them.

We invite our readers visiting the island while this project is underway to post pictures on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>. Ask to join that private (closed) Facebook site and post pictures after you've been admitted.

That Facebook page is now approaching some 3200 members. Our other Everything SXM page on FB, <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten?fref=ts> now has over 8,200 "likes." Join both...

15. Your Samsung Galaxy S Smart Phone Is Not An Underwater Camera

When it was first introduced, the Samsung Galaxy S4 smart phone was promoted as being "waterproof" and capable of taking pictures underwater.

But when people wrecked the phone by using it underwater, Samsung wouldn't replace it. Suddenly the ads stopped.

If you have such a phone and were thinking of using it underwater, forget it. Google "underwater cameras" -- you'll find many top brands are offered. Your Samsung phone isn't one of them.

16. Where To Use Underwater Cameras

Check out island dive shops. They make trips to reefs and to shipwrecks where you can take stunning pictures. If you're not quite that adventurous, the waters off Cupecoy and the southern end of Orient Beach are very good. Many people also look at the area offshore near Oyster Bay Beach Resort. There you'll find lots of fish, sometimes including sting rays and many others. Pelicans also sometimes feed there.

17. Download for Your 'puter: Birds of SXM

The folks over at Traveltalk Online posted this link where you can download pictures of SXM birds to place on your desktop. Some neat stuff here: <http://www.lesfruitsdemer.com/resources/#SXMbirds>

18. SXM In The Summer

We've said it many times: if you want to have a great summer vacation, do it in SXM. Surrounded by the ocean and usually benefitting from tradewinds, SXM is hot but not so sweltering as the big cities in the US. Most restaurants are open and hotel prices are very low compared to high-season prices or charges at places like the Jersey Shore or Cape Cod and the Islands (Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket). See next story.

19. July 4 Fireworks: Yes

Every year around this time folks interested in a July 4 vacation ask: are there fireworks on SXM?

Yes there are, usually in a few locations. SXM has thousands of American visitors on July 4 and the island wants to make them happy. So come, check out fireworks info in the newspapers, and enjoy,

20. Near Cupecoy Wall, a Real Estate Office

Immediately south of the Shore Pointe condos in Cupecoy there's a cement wall marking private property. A small indentation in the wall near Shore Pointe has enabled perhaps a dozen beachgoers' cars to park there in recent years but that space is now gone; a real estate building is being constructed there.

If you drive to the beach entrance just north of Ocean Club, there's free parking right there. If you prefer to park at the stairways to the beaches, you can do that too, for a small fee which covers the lease the vendor pays the property owner.

Unfortunately, the property is private, not public; it's owned by the same Turkish billionaire who owns Port de Plaisance, Sudi Ozkan.

21. What Kind of Car Should You Rent?

Most SXM car rental companies rent small cars which give you economical service -- a good thing since the price of gas in SXM is far higher than in the US. As long as they have four doors and familiar names, you're likely in good shape (Toyota, Nissan, Honda, Hyundai). However we never recommend super-small cars like the "Atos" or any "Smart" car since their extremely small size can be a huge problem if you're in a collision with anything larger.

Our car rental recommendations have frequently been posted here. All of the companies we've recommended give discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the members-only "Secret" website for more (and for over 230 other on-island discounts). Also see our www.everythingsxm.com.

If you have a special need -- like an exotic car -- you might want to check with Thrifty, which has the largest fleet on the island. They have also agreed to give our members a discount which will be posted soon on the Secret Site.

22. Lagoon Causeway Authority, SLAC, Enhances Airport Roundabout Area

The Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority for the past two days has been busy shifting sand next to the Simpson Bay Causeway Round-a-bout in order to enhance the aesthetics of the area that is frequented by joggers, walkers, and bird watchers.

Some benches will be placed in the area for pedestrians who frequent the Causeway every day to have a place to relax and enjoy the ambiance. Families are also seen on weekends having an outing at the Causeway.

Some debris has been removed by a backhoe and the works continue with levelling the sand in the area.

23. Restaurant of the Week: Skipjack's, Simpson Bay

If you're a seafood fan, you won't be disappointed when you visit Skipjacks restaurant in Simpson Bay opposite Kim Sha beach.

Officially a seafood grill, bar, and fish market, Skipjack's is renowned for the quality of their seafood and they're winners of numerous culinary awards. Their beautiful waterfront setting on the lagoon only adds to the ambiance.

When you first come in, take a close look at the display case; you can tell a lot about quality simply by looking at fish on display. In this fish market, you will not notice any "fishy" smell -- its absence says a lot about both the fish and the ice being fresh and perfectly clean. George Shetter is the owner and he is a long-time fisherman with a penchant for perfection.

Definitely go: you will not be disappointed and you will be back. More: <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/>

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 (featured 4/6/15)

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

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 6/15/15)

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)
Coconut Grove (formerly SPN Cafe), <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html> (featured 8/18/14)
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there). (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. Time Running Out To Enter Our Three-SXM-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. Totally Renovated Simpson Bay Unit Sold; Where To Buy / Rent SXM T/Share Condos

We've promoted it for weeks and sold it two weeks ago in what amounted to a small bidding war. The good news: there are plenty more SXM timeshares for sale at great prices directly from their owners on our site, here: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

26. You Can Still Buy Our SXM Euro-Ovals

We are continuing to accept orders for our very popular SXM Euro Oval stickers -- 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) 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 with the subject SXM Ovals. JMB members, please see our recent emails to you about SXM Euro Ovals and luggage tags for important info..

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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.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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<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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