

#998 --- June 22, 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 about SXM

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Part of www.everythingstmaarten.com

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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

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

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TOP STORIES

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

This is 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.

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- Three-Vacation SXM Giveaway Set For Early August; Enter Now (SXM Weekly News Direct Subscribers Only)
- New Giveaway Coming To Celebrate Us Reaching 4.5-Million Visitors; Name It And Be Among The Finalists!
- Now You Can Sell Your Full-Share SXM Condo, Villa, or Home On Everythingxsm.com
- Traveling? Protect Your Life, Health, & Savings With SkyMed Membership Purchased Through Us (Big Bonuses Right Now)
- Where (and Why) To Rent or Buy SXM Timeshare Condos
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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 11/28/2015 12/5/2015 week 48 Diamond Flamingo 7332 beach side. Beautiful views. Large studio, sleeps four, full kitchen, air conditioned, laundry on premise, close to restaurants, casino's, grocery. Resort has available bus to see the island. You don't need a car although a car does allow the flexibility to see the island. You can take local buses. We walk and prefer to rent a car if we need one. So many beaches with so little time. This is

a great island. May be interested in selling. \$1,400 8022339207 nancy nancy@newhorizonssoccer.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/28/2015 3/14/2015 Week #9 & 10 La Vista 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, Full kitchen, Living Room, Balcony over looking Simpson Bay on 2nd floor. Colorful decor, with a few steps to a swimming pool. Wifi service available, great dining in renowned Hideaway restaurant. Used the facilities for 12 years - made many friends. Most of the residents have been going to LaVista for that many years and more. Per Week \$7,500.00 Bob 1-757-496-9519 or 757-270-5882 (cell) bobbibob1@verizon.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

This Week's Stories

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"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.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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Section Five: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)
(Revised 12/31/14)

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 230+** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

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

Contact Us:

[Revised 2/24/15]

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Into Each Life, Some Rain -- Finally

Dry season in St. Maarten has been truly dry this year, and once again there has been a significant brush fire on

the French side.

This time, it may have started in the French side dump. Grass outside the dump caught fire and spread rapidly, for a time threatening some homes on the other side of the hill in cul-de-sac.

We received no reports of injury or serious property damage. The heavy rain that came on Monday brought with it a collective sigh of relief from the entire island.

2. SXM Airport Formally Unveils New Departure Lounge

Passengers who have departed from SXM Airport since late March have had a first-hand look at the major makeover that the airport has been performing in its departure lounge.

Last week, government officials celebrated the official opening of the new departure lounge which has many new attractions to occupy the time of passengers before departure.

Outbound passengers using the Princess Juliana International Airport, SXM, would have noticed a significant change to the Departure Lounge, which has received a transformative face-lift as part of the airport's new retail strategy.

The renovated Departure Lounge was officially opened June 17. The Lounge forms an integral part of SXM Airport's Capital Improvement Program. The aim was to give the airport a new, more attractive sense of place that would lure passengers to spend more at the concessionaires.

"This is a very important moment for us as we are finally able to launch what began as our new retail strategy aimed at increasing the airport's non-aeronautical revenues in accordance with the best practices all over the world," said Regina LaBega, SXM Airport's managing director.

"We have already been receiving congratulatory messages from passengers that have been using the departure area, with some stating that they were not only impressed but felt proud of their airport becoming a beautiful international gateway," LaBega added.

The opening ceremony featured music and dance performances as well as video presentations and it ended with a reception.

3. Jet Blue Formally Announces Increased Weekend Nonstops from Boston

Last week, we reported that Jet Blue was increasing its weekend nonstop flights to SXM from Boston. Our report was issued ahead of any official announcement from Jet Blue (we do that a lot).

As expected, Jet Blue did exactly what we they said they would do; the announcement was issued this week. Here it is: http://otp.investis.com/clients/us/jetblue_airways/usn/usnews-story.aspx?cid=981&newsid=29753

4. Use the Web's Simplest Airfare Booking Site To Get Low Fares to Anywhere

If you're looking for simplicity when you buy airfares, please choose our own www.flytravelgo.com. Our site is exceptionally 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.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. Sparks Start Flying in Timeshare Owners War Against Alegria

The war between the timeshare owners at Caravanserai Resort and Alegria Resort owner Ray Sidhom has begun.

History: The old Caravanserai timeshare resort went bankrupt when its owner, Manek, spent far too much money trying to expand the property during the Great Recession. He allegedly also sold "vapor rooms" -- condos on a floor he never built since SXM Airport went to court arguing the building he had proposed was too high. The airport won, but Manek allegedly refused to refund purchases of rooms he never built. (We hear he is still on the island, working for a family member in the tourism business in Philipsburg.)

Failing to find a buyer for the hurricane damage-prone bankrupt property, mortgage holder Scotia Bank (The Bank of Nova Scotia) tried to auction it off several times -- unsuccessfully. Eventually they lowered the price so they wouldn't lose much on a sale, and Ray Sidhom, who we hear made his money in credit card processing on Long Island, bought it at auction.

Sidhom's first act was to email some Caravanserai timeshare owners to tell them their timeshare contracts, for which they had paid a reported \$30-million or so, were now null and void and worthless. The timeshare owners, according to Sidhom, now owned nothing and could not trade or sell or do anything else with their timeshares since they were voided by Sidhom. Apparently timeshare owners at properties sold at auction fell through a gaping loophole in the island's timeshare laws -- and beyond that SXM really has no timeshare owner consumer protection though it has been talking about enacting it for years.

Worse, despite desperate public pleas for help from thousands of Caravanserai timeshare owners caught in this debacle, the island government appears to have done nothing to advocate for the victims -- at least nothing visible to the public eye. In response, hundreds of timeshare owners wrote to local newspapers castigating the Dutch Side government for its perceived inaction and vowing never to return to the island.

Alegria: Sidhom then renamed Caravanserai *Alegria*, "*The Place of Happiness*," though we doubt any timeshare owners would regard that as anything resembling truth in advertising. He recently invited an assortment of island bigwigs to a shindig featuring pictures of what the new resort he envisions will look like. It has a small ocean-based megayacht dock which has sent environmentalists into orbit since it would require blowing up coral and destroying sea life.

The dock also makes little sense since it would leave the yachts totally unprotected and vulnerable to sudden storms and sudden very rough ocean surf, which is why nobody else has erected any substantial ocean-located docks in the area. Visitors to the old Mullet Bay Beach Resort may remember its popular seaside boardwalk -- it was obliterated by Hurricane Luis in 1995, as was the entire resort. Picture what a Luis-sized storm would do to yachts plunked in the ocean. Besides, large private vessels are prohibited by insurance laws from being anywhere near hurricane-prone areas during hurricane season. So why spend money to attract them? They certainly don't need hotels.

Apparently neither Mr. Sidhom nor his cohorts bothered to consult with anybody over at the airport about their plans since those plans include an eight-story (or thereabouts) parking garage near the entrance -- very close to airport property. The airport is not amused by this and is "looking into it."

Court battle: Meanwhile, TOCA, the association of Caravanserai timeshare owners, was formed months ago to fight Alegria / Sidhom. Since there is no such thing as class action lawsuits in SXM, only the members of TOCA would benefit from any potential lawsuit -- if they file one as is widely speculated and if it wins. TOCA recently bought a full-page ad in local papers. We got a copy and immediately posted it in social media. It pulls no punches.

To see it, go to http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml and click the link that reads "Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Full-Page Ad in Local Papers." The document is a PDF. That same page also houses PDF archives of *SXM Weekly News*, the last three issues of which have included detailed coverage of what's been going on regarding timesharing in SXM.

We will post key Alegria updates as they happen directly to our JMB Website Supporters members, and later right here in *Weekly News*. If you're not a JMB member, do it; it gives you 237 SXM discounts with more coming. A July 4 membership sale launches Wednesday at 8 p. m. eastern which will give you about \$10 off the already low price of a new membership. Learn more here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

See next story.

6. Uphill Battle? Alegria's Development Proposals Meet Vehement Opposition

Vehement opposition to Alegria's plans seems to be forming across the island.

The new property seems to be oriented toward the megayacht set which is not on the island at all during hurricane season. Environmentalists are up in arms over plans for a megayacht pier over the coral seabed; such a pier would require blasting coral which is a bad idea and which would also kill marine life.

The Airport seems opposed to the plans as well since those plans appear to call for tall structures near airport property which opponents are saying may threaten the safety of arriving passenger aircraft.

Then, of course, there are the timeshare owners who appear poised to take some kind of dramatic action against Mr. Sidhom, the owner of Alegria.

In recent months, the Alegria Resort itself has been something of a ghost town with, one source has said, well less than 10% occupancy. It has announced a partnership with a unit of Choice hotels as well and *SXM Weekly News* has learned that it has been searching on the island for a new General Manager.

We will post key Alegria updates as they happen directly to our JMB Website Supporters members, and later right here in *Weekly News*. If you're not a JMB member, do it; it gives you 237 SXM discounts with more coming. A July 4 new-membership sale launches Wednesday at 8 p.m. Eastern which will give you about \$10 off the already low price of a new membership. Learn more here: http://everythingxml.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

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"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.

7. 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

8. SXM's Best Timeshare Resorts: First in a New Series

Despite heavy adverse publicity about several SXM timeshare resorts, there are many on the island that are quite well-run, responsive to their timeshare owners, and reasonable in cost. Between now and this Fall, we'll talk about several of them in this new series. Each one we list will be added below, most recent first.

Royal Islander Resort on the water next to Maho Beach is clearly one of the most well respected of all SXM timeshare resorts. We recall receiving no negative reports about it, ever. What we do hear is that its people bend over backwards to serve customers, the resort is perfectly maintained and immaculate, and that everything runs with the precision of a fine Swiss watch. All of those strike us as good reasons to take a second look at Royal Islander.

Best timeshare resorts covered so far in this series:

Royal Islander (6/22/15): <http://www.royalislander.com/>

9. Now You Can Sell Your Full-Share SXM Condo, Villa, or Home On Our Site

JMB Website Supporters members now can not only sell or rent out their timeshares in SXM or worldwide on our site, they can also sell or rent out their wholly owned SXM condo, villa, or home on our site. The page where it all happens is: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

Members: For details, see the members-only Secret Website. Login using the orange login box below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. You'll find much more about all of your 237 discounts and other benefits there.

Nonmembers -- learn more here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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>

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

SECTION 3: Island

Story 12:

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®.

13. \$10 Off New JMB Memberships: July 4 Sale Starts 8 p.m. EDT Wednesday

July gives America lots to celebrate -- so for the first time we're doing a July 4 holiday membership sale starting Wednesday at 8 p.m. EDT. You'll get \$10 Off a new one-year JMB membership which gives you more than 237 discounts and other benefits across SXM and beyond. Plus, there are significant discounts off our usual low prices on multiyear memberships, reinstatements, and renewals.

Learn more about new memberships here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

To reinstate a former JMB membership, go here: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

To renew your current JMB membership, go here: www.everythingsxm.com/secret

14. "Dr. Soc" Is New Prez of Rotary SXM; Henna Budhrani is President-Elect

The Rotary Club of Sint Maarten kicked off its new Rotary year on Saturday, June 20th at Captain Oliver's Restaurant with a Rock & Blues Celebration featuring master guitarist Gianfranco and Christine Gordon along with rock band *Church on Monday*. Outgoing President Deepak "Danny" Ramchandani thanked the outgoing Board of Directors for their service and distributed more than \$60,000 to worthy organizations on Sint Maarten, including the Catholic School Board After School Program, the Art Saves Lives Foundation, the Senior Citizens Computer Literacy Program, Scouting Antiano, the Pre-University of St. Maarten initiative, The ACE School, the Digikids Foundation, NewSTART for Children, the White & Yellow Cross, the Philipsburg Cultural Center and the Sint Maarten Little League.

The Rotary Club of Sint Maarten also named Tom Burnett as a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his service to our youth on St. Maarten. Tom and his wife, Lisa Davis, run an after school program which uses the sport of Baseball as a way to help young adults focus on their academic studies through the Sint Maarten Little League. More than 50 young athletes from ages 8 to 18 participate in this after school program. The program was also the recipient of \$6,000 from the Rotary Club of Sint Maarten to expand its facilities and accommodate more young athletes, as well as a donation of equipment including bats, two dozen baseballs and gloves.

President Ramchandani then officially turned over the reigns of the Club to Jeffrey "Dr. Soc" Sochrin. Sochrin went on to present three additional Paul Harris Fellows. Posthumously, a Paul Harris Fellow was presented to Charles E. Southworth, Jr, a Past President of the Rotary Club of Nauset (Orleans), Massachusetts, USA, that was accepted by his son, Charles E. Southworth, III, a Sint Maarten resident and Island 92 radio personality, known on air as "Mr. S".

Sochrin then called upon the two men who taught him about serving others; his uncle, Gary Sochrin of the Rotary Club of Derby-Shelton Connecticut, and his father, Sumner Sochrin. He went on to present both men with Paul Harris Fellow Awards. To Gary Sochrin in recognition for his years of work with Rotary and to Sumner Sochrin, in recognition for more than 50 years of coaching young men in the sport of baseball at the high school and collegiate levels.

Newly installed President Sochrin introduced his new Board Members and Committee Chairpersons including: Secretary/President-elect Henna Budhrani, Immediate Past President Deepak Ramchandani, Vice President Rebecca Low, Vice President Robert Judd, Treasurer Junior Gumbs, Sargent-at-Arms Franklyn Maynard, Director Pierre DeCelles, Vrisha Motwani and Geeta Katnani (The Fun Committee), Larry Gregory (Public Relations), Bonita Hart (Membership), James Ferris (New Generations) and John Caputo (Service Projects).

Sochrin went on to say, "We have been asked by our District Governor and the Rotary International President to move from being successful to being significant and to be a gift to the world. We will do that together by continuing our focus on youth and continuing the great efforts that have become part of our local traditions. With this in mind and before we get started with the FUN part of the evening, I'd like to leave you with a few words that were shared with me from my very first boss in back in 1989. These words are attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson and they most fitting here. Let us together raise our glasses together". Sochrin continued, "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; the leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know that one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded".

For more information about the Rotary Club of St. Maarten, please contact the Rotary Club of St. Maarten Press Officer at: pressrotaryxsm@gmail.com or visit the website www.rotaryxsm.org.

15. Orient Beach Beach Bar / Restaurant Demolition Pictures Now on Our Facebook Page

You can see them here: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10152855387586367&type=1>

As we've reported since last winter, all businesses between Kon Tiki and Pedro's on Orient Beach are being 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.

Demolition started a few days ago and is moving fairly quickly. The buildings are mostly wood so it shouldn't take long to level them completely.

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 group and post your pictures after you've been admitted.

That Facebook page is now approaching some 3300 members. Our other Everything SXM page on FB, <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten?fref=ts> now has over 8,200 "likes." Join both...

16. Three-Vacation SXM Giveaway Set For Early August; Enter Now (Subscribers Only)

To celebrate the 1,000th edition of *SXM Weekly News* [this is issue #998], 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>

17. New Giveaway Coming To Celebrate 4.5-Million Visitors; Name It And Be a Finalist!

Our site is now over 4,200,000 visitors and will reach 4.5-million within the next year or so. When that happens, we will do another new vacation giveaway.

In our giveaways, we pick at random about 50 entries and draw the winners from those 50. Last January, we had a giveaway when we reached four million visitors -- one of them was our actual four millionth visitor. He won a SXM vacation...

Now -- as we prepare to launch this newest giveaway later this summer -- we want your help in naming it. If we pick your suggestion, you will be included in the "Top 50" finalists which will greatly increase your odds of winning.

Send your suggestion to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com. Use the subject "4.5 million giveaway". Good luck. The winner's name will be published here in a couple of weeks. Include your location (home address) and daytime / evening phone numbers.

18. Where (and Why) To Rent or Buy SXM Timeshare Condos

Although some SXM timeshares have had difficulties, the majority are well-run, customer-oriented businesses. With well over 100,000 timeshare weeks out there, sometimes owners can't use their weeks. If you want to rent or buy some, go to our homepage at www.everythingsxm.com and click on the "Timeshares for Rent/Sale" link. There you'll find hundreds of timeshares for rent or sale direct from their owners. No commissions, no middlemen, just great prices. Check it out. (Only JMB Website Supporters members are allowed to submit weeks for posting.)

19. How To Get Your SXM Euro-Ovals

We are continuing to accept orders for our very popular copyrighted 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 (all must go to the same address). 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 for important info.

20. Give Us Discounts, We'll Give You Something In Return...

We are at 237 SXM discounts and will soon start adding more. Here's how you can benefit from that besides using them....

If you're a JMB member, talk to your favorite SXM businesses about offering discounts to our members. Businesses currently pay nothing to participate and the result is increased business. If the business owner likes the idea, you need to contact us and give us her/his name, position, and email (that is required) and we'll contact them by email. Once they sign up, we add a year to your JMB membership. There's no limit; bring on three new discounts, and you'll get three years added to your JMB Website Supporters membership.

If you're not a member, do it anyway. We'll give you a free one-year membership when you have three people agree to sign up and provide benefits.

Email us when you have people ready to go. If you're a JMB member, email susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Member Discount Referral." If you're a nonmember, use the subject "Nonmember Discount Referral." We keep the records here. Sorry, no credit for prior referrals or for businesses we've already approached. We *must* have the business owner's name and email to proceed.

21. "St. Maarten" Does Not, In Fact, Exist...

There is no "St." abbreviation in Dutch for "Saint" or "Sint" -- so SXM's name is in fact Sint Maarten, not St. Maarten. We always refer to it erroneously but now you know we know....

22. Restaurant of the Week:

This column officially returns next week.

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)

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_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13) Returns Next Issue

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .

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

Please see our site, www.everythingsxm.com.

CONTACT US

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

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *2014 St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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