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Vol. 2, #1106 --- Monday, 7/17/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book
to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.
For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#)
at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" 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. Now read by nearly 300,000 people 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, Note, and Android Users

This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in.

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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29 news 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, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 12/23/2017 2/17/2018 Week 51,52,1,2,3,4,7 Flamingo Studios, 1 br and 2 br available at the Flamingo and royal Palm Resorts \$1000-\$2000 per week Joe jgarro55@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 12/9/2017 12/16/2017 Week 49 Towers at mullet bay Beautiful 2 bdrm 2 bath living room kitchen area overlooking lagoon point pirouette and golf course.2patio's 3tv's dvd must sell due to health reasons. Have enjoyed immensely for past 10 years. Any reasonable offer will be accepted 1200 Joel. 215 938 1888 Blkcd2000@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents.](#)

This Week's Stories

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

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



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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 group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related

benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

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

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St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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- 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 Six: 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 260+ benefits... and more coming soon.

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members 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: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Jet Blast Kills Tourist at Airport Fence

A 57-year-old tourist from New Zealand, seeking the same thrill experienced by hundreds of thousands of others over many years, was holding onto the fence at the Maho beach end of the SXM Airport runway as a narrowbody 737 jet revved its engines and started its roll down the runway, taking off for Trinidad.

But the 100 mph jet blast was too much. The tourist lost her grip and fell backwards, her head hitting the cement. Paramedics and police rushed to the scene and the paramedics worked valiantly trying to resuscitate her, but to no avail. Ultimately she was taken to the St. Maarten Medical Center where she passed away.

The tourist was on the island with her husband and friends.

The story quickly became major news on media outlets in New Zealand, on the island, and on major network TV news broadcasts and newspapers worldwide. All those that we saw emphasized the warning signs that appear on the fence which say that jet blast can be lethal. Nonetheless, it is not illegal for tourists to hang onto the fence and many still do.

The most complete story about this comes from New Zealand. Here it is, from the *New Zealand Herald*:
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11890187

This is the first fatality that we are aware of from jet blast on the island. By contrast, there are several drownings every year on SXM beaches. The following stories explore the situation at the airport in more detail.

2. SXM Lawyer: Airport, Government Could Be Liable

Not long after the news of a tourist being killed by jet blast at the Maho beach end of the SXM Airport runway had spread worldwide, a well-known SXM lawyer, Roland Duncan, commented that perhaps both the airport and the Dutch side government itself may be liable.

Here is [his posting](#).

To be fair: We're sure that not all SXM lawyers agree. It will be up to the government to determine whether changes are needed. See next story.

3. What Would You Do To Prevent This From Happening?

Should the Dutch side government be doing anything to prevent future accidents like this? That question has been

roundly debated since late Wednesday, when this accident occurred. There was a huge outpouring of sympathy for the victim, who simply did what hundreds of thousands or perhaps millions have done before her for decades. But from some people, there was an outpouring of vitriol — criticizing the logic of exposing oneself to such dangerous circumstances.

Should the government do something here? We asked that question in a poll on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). The choices posed in the poll included: a) do nothing, trusting that people will read the warning signs; b) assign police to proactively tell people to get off the fence when planes are taking off; c) erect a wall people can't climb, eliminating the fence; d) eliminate the curb in the middle of the road, on which some people trip when blown back by jet blast; e) install jet blast deflectors which would eliminate the blast but also eliminate much of the view and possibly contribute to safety issues for arriving aircraft; or f) install alarms which loudly warn people to get away from the fence and avoid the imminent danger of jet blast from planes about to depart.

In our unscientific poll, the choice "do nothing" garnered more votes than all other listed alternatives combined. In comments, people generally felt that fence-clinging plane watchers knew the danger of their act but chose to fence-cling anyway and should be allowed to do so.

Today, that unobstructed view of departing planes is probably the single most well-known attraction on the entire island, with Orient beach probably taking second-place. (The new chairlift, opening soon, may well add to that mix.) Our impression of island law is that it assumes people are intelligent and will be smart about their daily activities. That's why if you fall and break a leg in some cooking oil spilled on the floor of a SXM supermarket, our understanding is that any lawsuit you try to file in St. Maarten may well be thrown out of court: the attitude is that you should have seen the oil and walked around it. *Ditto for seeing danger warnings at the airport and avoiding the danger.*

To see specific responses to our poll, please see our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

4. Strike Narrowly Averted at JFK, EWR, and LGA

One big story that did not happen last week was the prospective midweek strike of workers at all three major New York metropolitan airports. The strike was averted at the last minute.

Here are [the details](#).

5. Insel Air Now in Huge Trouble in the U. S.

As if its fleet safety and financial stability weren't precarious enough, now Caribbean air carrier Insel Air has even more problems — in Miami, where there's a tax lien in the millions on the carrier.

Here's [that story](#).

6. "Today's SXM Weather" & Four Sources of Current SXM Weather Info

Check our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) each day for daily weather updates. You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops.
- 3) Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

See significant National Hurricane Center Outlooks and Advisories as they relate both to SXM and to the US East and Gulf coasts on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

7. Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide -- **Guaranteed**

SkyMed Travel offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through *SkyMed Travel*.

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for **Weekly News** readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. ***If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.***

You won't be disappointed.

Changing Your Email Address?

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One for your SXM Weekly News subscription Quickly and Easily at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc.

8. No Complaints Now About Sapphire...

What a difference a year makes.

A year ago, it would've been difficult to find anyone who would speak in complimentary terms about Sapphire Beach Club in Cupecoy.

The resort was mired in litigation, criticized by the government, and raked over the coals daily by its many

dissatisfied timeshare owners.

But well respected timeshare executive Jan Borsje had become the manager in charge and was working hard to right the ship.

By the beginning of this year, as new appliances were arriving and the entire property was receiving long-overdue renovations, the complaints were starting to dwindle appreciably and timeshare owner satisfaction was already showing improvement.

Now, things are still not perfect, but timeshare owners are saying that the resort is closer to what they expect than it has been in years. If the conversation is limited simply to the physical state of the resort and the ability of its people to do their jobs, it is getting high marks. The only criticism about the physical plant now seems to be coming from people who haven't visited it lately.

There are still unsettled legal matters but from this perspective all appears good. But ... see the next story.

9. ...But Major Complaints About "Retroactive" Sapphire Billing Increase

All isn't perfect, of course. (See previous article.) Timeshare owners are telling us that Sapphire is now sending out retroactive rebillings for 2017. In communications from timeshare owners, they're saying that Sapphire correspondence is essentially a "Whoops we're sorry, we need more of your money" message -- even though their previous invoices for 2017 were paid in full, on time.

If you're a Sapphire timeshare owner and have not seen these bills, you will soon.

10. Repeat Warning To People Renting Out Their Timeshare Weeks

The ads on our timeshare rental page on www.everythingSXM.com are from timeshare owners — not intermediaries or other third parties. Therefore there are no third-party fees, commissions, or any other fees coming at you from out of the blue.

We do offer words of caution to the timeshare owners who are renting out weeks on our site. Those warnings are on the form they complete when submitting weekly rentals. Similar warnings are on our rentals page on www.everythingsxm.com.

The bottom line is that if you are renting out a week to someone, *there are no circumstances whatsoever under which you should ever be sending that individual any money*, regardless of how they ask for it or what it's supposed to be for. They are paying you, not vice versa.

You can bet that anyone who calls you and asks you to send them money for a week they are renting or buying from you is attempting to scam you. It happens -- and people fall for it. In many cases, they send you a check larger than the amount you are asking for *and request that you immediately send them the difference*. That's a scam, pure and simple.

Also, some bogus rental organizations will ask you to send them a fee so they can list your unit for sale. That is another scam.

Our ads for rentals and sales are benefits of membership in our JMB Website Supporters — among about 300 discounts and benefits we offer in our island discount program, which has been active for the last 15 years. It actually works for advertisers as it has since 2002.

Again: never send money to people you don't know when they are supposed to be paying you.

11. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Owner Orientations

Simpson Bay timeshare owners should sit in on the Monday orientations there. Not only is the pastry delicious, but a surprise mystery guest will be there (in person or by video) and you might want to hear what he has to say and take a free brochure with you.

12. Reserve Extra Vacation Days Easily On Our Site

In addition to offering hundreds of timeshare weeks for sale and for rent, the Timeshare page of our EverythingSXM.com website offers direct links to sources of additional days for timeshare renters.

In an increasing number of cases, people wish to fly midweek — or, in fact, any day but Saturday or Sunday, when the airport can be a bit hectic. Before buying fares for midweek travel — which are almost always lower in cost than weekend travel — timeshare owners may also need to reserve a few days at other resorts.

On our Timeshare page on everythingxsm.com, we now have links to daily rentals at Simpson Bay Resort, which offers a number of beautiful, newly renovated units through much of the year in convenient Simpson Bay. For those who prefer a smaller property, we also provide easy links to Baker's Suites in Simpson Bay which also just finished renovations. Simpson Bay Resort has restaurants on site and beaches on the property, while Baker's Suites has many restaurants nearby and is within walking distance of attractive beaches.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

13. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

This section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB.

We now offer about 300 discounts (including those now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming weeks when we roll out many entirely new discounts and benefits.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, click the links in the next article. Our PRIME Summertime Membership Sale ends soon; see below for info.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

***** Final Week *****

Our "Prime Summertime" JMB SXM Island Discount Program Membership Sale Ends Monday June 24:

About 300 SXM discounts & benefits. Learn lots more by clicking the links below.

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

14. SXM Weekly News Has Changed...

Two weeks ago we debuted a new format for *SXM Weekly News*. Here's what's new:

- We've switched to the first in a series of new mastheads, reflecting some of the most breathtaking scenes on SXM.
- Each newsletter section has been renamed to include all the types of news it covers. You'll find the new names both in the Table of Contents and atop each newsletter section.
- All news is in the first several stories in each section, getting the priority it deserves. Island features follow, then regular stories like "Restaurant of the Week." Features will appear as space allows; we hope to have two in most issues. This change should enable you to find stories you seek faster and more easily in every *SXM Weekly News* issue.
- Sponsor stories, delivering information of value to all readers, will usually be limited to two per issue. As you may know, SkyMed is our chief sponsor. SkyMed members "get home free" when they become critically ill or injured when traveling. *The story about SkyMed shows you why what they do is so important to you and your family.*
- After 40 years of spending time on SXM, we know a ton of useful stuff about the island -- way more than we can put here or on our site, everythingxsm.com. So we developed our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) which enables you to ask questions in real time, get or give answers, post pictures, and much more. *Even if you have never been interested in Facebook, this site will make it highly worthwhile.*
- Your JMB Website Supporters membership makes this newsletter possible. If you're not a member, please join today. See what you get by clicking below:

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

**Hear Jeff Live On Island 92 Radio (91.9 FM or
www.island92.com)
Now Every Monday
Between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. Island Time;
(same as EDT)
Restarting Monday June 24**

15. US-SXM "Open Skies" Agreement May Boost Air Travel...

The United States and country St. Maarten have entered into a modernized "Open Skies" agreement which both nations say "strengthens the partnership and economic ties between both nations.... It continues to preserve commercial opportunities and travel options for airlines, travellers, businesses, airports and localities, with *unrestricted*

market access for passenger and cargo flights between the two countries and beyond. In doing so, the new agreement will continue to facilitate future travel and commerce between the United States and St. Maarten."

More is [here](#). See next story.

SXM Weekly News Depends on JMB Memberships To keep on publishing ...

Help us continue to bring you
all the SXM news of interest to Tourists.

Please join JMB today:

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

16. ... But Will It Lower Fares & Hasten Preclearance?

There was nothing in the story about the open skies agreement that indicates that the agreement itself can or will have any beneficial effect on fares between the two countries.

However, as we have previously reported, Southwest Airlines is expected to enter the St. Maarten – US market possibly by next high season, most likely with flights from Fort Lauderdale and connections from many other Southwest cities.

Rival low-fare carrier JetBlue, which has many more amenities than Southwest, has also said it plans to introduce flights from Fort Lauderdale. And legacy carrier American Airlines flies to SXM from nearby Miami.

The result of all this concentration on Miami - Ft. Lauderdale could easily be *reduced fares from Florida and possibly reduced connecting fares from other cities*, especially when SW actually enters the fray. But landing fees and fuel costs in St. Maarten are high so we don't now expect any major drop in fares long-term except for people who are flying from or through South Florida to SXM.

As always, we'll keep you posted. If you have friends who might be interested in flights to SXM by way of the upcoming new Southwest and JetBlue gateways in South Florida, you might suggest that they subscribe to *SXM Weekly News* for further updates on when this service becomes finalized and when it will begin. They can do that at www.sxmweeklynews.com.

As for preclearance, the US government would like to see that expedited but the infrastructure required for it is extensive. We hope it happens early, but our expectation is that it's unlikely to be available until late 2018. We hope we're wrong.

17. Now: Just \$59/month for SkyMed's Best Medevac Protection

How about SkyMed for \$59 a month for your family?

You probably know by now that SkyMed medical evacuation programs protect your pocketbook and your health when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. They protect your health because SkyMed takes you home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill while traveling. They protect your pocketbook by making it unnecessary for you to pay for a medical evacuation in cash in advance — which is the only way to get this level of protection without being a SkyMed member.

Those out-of-pocket costs are huge: upwards of \$45,000 in many cases, and often far more. Now, you can get a five year SkyMed Ultimate membership and pay for it monthly at just \$59 per month for your family, which makes it easily affordable to practically anyone (even retirees and AUC students).

Of course, if you prefer, you can prepay for five years at the sharply reduced rate of \$2495. When you apply, you can get a 10 year price guarantee as well simply by noting on the application that you want an automatic renewal. That's the equivalent of paying \$499 per year for 10 years — an extraordinary price guarantee and times that are tumultuous politically worldwide.

You can also pay the \$59 a month to start for a few months and then convert to the prepaid ultimate membership to grab those prepayment savings. For more, call Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). He can answer all your questions and help you get signed up.

18. Seaweed Scuttles Pinel Ferries

Although the beaches are clear and everything's fine on Pinel island, one of the favorite getaway haunts of SXM tourists, nonetheless the ferries from Cul-de-Sac are operating somewhat spastically since there's a lot of Sargassum seaweed on the French side in Cul-de-Sac, the small dock from which the Pinel ferries depart.

If you intend to take the ferry to Pinel soon, bear in mind that Cul-de-Sac is an East-facing beach and those have been the most affected by Sargassum seaweed. If you drive by and see that ferries aren't running, you can simply divert to beaches on the west coast of the island which are generally seaweed-free.

19. Want to Buy a SXM Institution? *Etna Ice Cream* is For Sale

One of the most delicious things you can put touch to your lips in all of Sint Maarten/Saint Martin is Etna Ice Cream, made in a small factory on the French side in the district of St. Louis, south of Grand Case.

Etna Ice Cream has achieved legendary status on the island because it is all natural and incredibly creamy and delicious. It is sold in most markets on both sides of the island, in many of the top island restaurants, and on neighboring islands, and it has a huge number of devoted fans.

It's a family business and the family that owns it is musing about possible retirement.

Interested in buying this going business? [Look here.](#)

It's one sweet, delicious idea....

Your Business
**Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**
We do them: www.websitesthatworkusa.com

20. SXM Sticker Earns a Parking Spot in New Jersey...

We've recently been promoting the availability of our SXM euro oval stickers on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

Our stickers have been around for about 15 years. You'll see them across the island and across North America. They're printed on durable bright white stock with a dark green SXM behind which are lighter green palm trees, with the island name at the bottom of the oval.

In Belmar, New Jersey, our SXM euro oval has already helped a local who loves SXM park her car.

Marcelle D. writes, "We were in Belmar NJ. There are 2 popular restaurants, 9th Avenue Pier and Marina Grill there, so finding parking is horrendous. Trying to find parking at this popular spot, a couple notices our St. Maarten SXM Euro-Oval sticker on our car.... the wife yells 'St. Maarten!!' Then says 'wait, we're leaving now, take our space! I love St. Maarten!'"

So do we, Marcelle; thanks for the story. To pick up your stickers, see our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) -- all the details are there plus a picture. Or, do this:

Our pricing is inexpensive; two for \$10 and five for \$15. Want 10? That's just \$25.

To get yours, send the correct amount by [PayPal](#) payable to jeff@jmbcommunications.com or a US dollar check (drawn on a US bank only) payable to JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Allow 30 days for shipping. We have ample supplies but order early, these will run out.

They're copyrighted: You can only get these stickers from us -- they are not available on SXM. Text may vary.

21. *Daily Herald* Founder Roger Snow Passes

Roger Snow had attained near legendary status on SXM because of his *Daily Herald*, the island's dominant newspaper. He has now passed: our condolences to his family.

Here is more, [from the Herald](#).

22. Judith "R" Remembers Mama, Wins a Trip to SXM

One of the benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership is that occasionally, out of the blue, we give things away — sometimes big things.

We recently asked JMB members in a bulletin the following:

"I Remember Mama was a popular 1950s TV show. Who were its five main actors, and what were its opening *and closing* theme songs? Hint: they were instrumentals, not vocals."

Either Judith has a great memory or she really knows how to use Google — or both, since she was the first person to

answer everything correctly.

Consequently, when we have our next major St. Maarten / St. Martin vacation giveaway next spring (when we hope to be surpassing 5.5 million visits to www.everythingsxm.com), she will be the recipient of one of our giveaway vacations on the island.

If you want to know the answers, you'll have to look them up just like Judith did. We especially recommend that you find and play the music from the opening and closing themes — it's really beautiful.

23. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #31

Over the years, St. Maarten/St. Martin has been home to many restaurants of varying descriptions. This series briefly describes a number of restaurants from both sides of the island that have passed into history but have not left our memory.

Frigate was one of many restaurants at the old Mullet Bay Beach Resort, destroyed by Hurricane Luis in 1995. If our memory is correct, it was primarily a steak and seafood Emporium in beautiful surroundings on the resort's huge campus. We stayed at MBBR when we were first on the island in 1978 with a conference of New England Life agents and Frigate was one of the many resort restaurants where we dined. If you have any special memories of this or of any other restaurants at MBBR -- which at the time was the busiest resort on the island -- please email and let us know.

Readers: We're looking for your suggestions about other restaurants; let us know your past-era SXM favorites so we can feature your complete reviews. Email your suggestions *with detailed information please to susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Look Back."* **Please be sure to include as many details as you can; you may well be the source of a future column.** Do check below first -- we've already featured over two dozen former SXM restaurants.

Check next week for another article about another former SXM restaurant.

Featured so far in this series (D=Dutch F= French):

- 1- West Indian Tavern D
- 2- Sam's Place D
- 3- Turtle Pier D
- 4- Scavenger's D
- 5- Surf Club South F
- 6- Laguna D
- 7- Le Perroquet D
- 8- Ric's Place D
- 9- La Raviolina F
- 10 - Da Livio D
- 11 - La Gondola D
- 12 - L'Alabama F
- 13 - Andy & Cheryl's F
- 14 - La Calanque F
- 15 - La Diva F
- 16 - Antoine D
- 17 - Sambuca D
- 18 - Peg Leg Pub & Steakhouse D
- 19 - Tutta Pasta D
- 20 - Wendy's (D)
- 21 - Risdon's Drive-In (D?)
- 22 - Dawn Beach Hotel Restaurant (D)
- 23 - Paradise Cafe (Contributed by Laurence Aiello) (D)
- 24 - Callaloo (D)
- 25 - Mario's Bistrot (Marigot) F (updated name and moved to Dutch Side, D)
- 26 - Pinocchio's (D)
- 27 - Cugini (French Side) (F)
- 28 - Zachary's (D)
- 29 - Sweet Tooth (D)
- 30 - Saratoga (D)
- 31 - Frigate (D)

Coming soon:

The Deli at Mullet Bay Beach Resort

Note: Do you remember its name? You can read about all of these past restaurants by checking back issues of *SXM Weekly News* on our PDF archives page. A link to it is near the beginning of this issue.

24. Restaurant of the Week: SkipJack's

Whenever we talk about SXM's top seafood restaurants, SkipJack's is always in the mix. (See all of our top Seafood Restaurant choices [here](#).)

SkipJack's is one of SXM's largest and most successful seafood restaurants. Open for lunch and dinner, it's also a great place to buy fresh seafood -- right inside their entrance.

On the main walkway through the restaurant you'll see two lobster pools -- one contains Caribbean spiny lobster and the other, northern lobsters flown in fresh from the US northeast.

The restaurant is so big and so busy, those two pools don't cut it. On a recent trip, we saw much bigger lobster holding tanks on the premises -- which means you'll hardly ever not find lobster available here in good quantities.

We recently had a lobster and pasta dish that was big, reasonably priced, and quite delicious. Of course, the menu offers selections that will appeal regardless of what you like for dinner ... so by all means go and enjoy. SkipJacks proudly displays our *Everything SXM Award of Excellence* in their main hallway. Visit and enjoy and tell "Jimmy" we sent you.

The article we published about SXM's Top Seafood Restaurants is on its own page on our website — see a complete list of [top seafood restaurants here](#).

The article we published about SXM's Top Italian Restaurants is on its own page on our website -- see SXM's [top Italian restaurants here](#).

And we recently updated our SXM dining page on www.everythingsxm.com -- check it now, and again before you go.

Sill not a JMB member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see www.everythingsxm.com.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 5/1/17)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/6/17)
Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 6/5/17)
Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/29/17)
Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/6/17; added 2/17)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 4/10/17)
Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 3/13/17
SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 7/17/17)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 3/25/17)
La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/30/17; added 1/17)
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16)
Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 5/21/17)
The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17)
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)
Temptation, <http://www.temptation-sxm.com/> (featured 7/5/17)
Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 7/10/17)
Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/26/17)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/19/17)
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 9/19/16)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16)
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get

there). (featured 4/17/2017)

FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17)

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 1/9/17)

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/27/17)

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 2/13/17)

25. Enter Our Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway

Our Summertime SXM vacation giveaway is underway and you can now enter. *SXM Weekly News* readers (NOT pass-along readers) can enter up to 10 times per subscribed email address. The drawing will be late in October, 2017. Here is our current prize list. Since this giveaway promotes non high-season visits to SXM, most of these vacations are yours from mid April to mid December, 2018. All vacations are subject to availability.

-- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at La Vista Resort, May through December 2018.

-- a 5 night stay (based upon availability April 10-Dec 18, 2018) in an ocean front room at the Westin St Maarten Dawn Beach Resort, Spa, and Casino.

-- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful Oyster Bay Beach Resort.

-- Dinner for Two at Davide Foini's legendary IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay (One winner)

-- Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort. (One winner)

-- Dinner for Two at Spiga, the highly acclaimed Italian Restaurant in Grand Case. (One winner.)

More may be coming.

Enter here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

26. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. Most issues for the past few years are now online.

27. Traveling This Fall? "Beat" SkyMed's 90-day Pre-Existing Conditions

Exclusion

On its annual and multiyear memberships, SkyMed, the medical evacuation membership company, has a 90 day exclusion on pre-existing conditions; after that, they're covered in full. To solve this issue, simply obtain your SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of the date your vacation begins. Jeff can answer all your SkyMed questions and can help you through the brief application process and even submit your application electronically. There is no upper age limit to apply, and pre-existing conditions should not deter you from applying either. Going to SXM or anywhere else in October, November, or December? See www.getskymed.com for more information or call Jeff directly weekdays during normal East Coast business hours at 508-747-8281. (SkyMed calls only.) You can learn more about SkyMed online as well at www.getskymed.com. Email jeff.berger@skymed.com.

28. Get SkyMed Family Medevac Protection: Its Key Features & Benefits

We've divided this article into a few sections. They are:

- About SkyMed
- Types of SkyMed Memberships
- Ten-Year Price Guarantee on New Five-Year "Ultimate" Memberships**
- Best Bang for the Buck
- JMB SkyMed Bonus
- Answers to a Frequently Asked Question
- Detailed Features of SkyMed Memberships & Detailed FAQ
- Contact Jeff About SkyMed

About SkyMed:

What SkyMed Does: SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *SkyMed is your free ticket home aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to help make sure everything goes as it should.*

How SkyMed Works: Like clockwork, you're taken from the hospital by ambulance to a waiting aircraft at SkyMed's expense; SkyMed makes all the arrangements and pays all costs for the medical evacuation jet and for the ambulance at the destination which takes you to a waiting team at your destination hospital, which already has your medical records and is ready to start helping you. There are no co-pays, no reimbursements, and no deductibles for SkyMed services, ever. SkyMed arranges everything and pays for all the services it provides.

Anything can happen — but you can trust SkyMed to take you home when you need it most.

What's It Cost? *Without* SkyMed, you'll need \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance to pay for an emergency medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you, for a small membership fee; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going.

Why Buy Now? We're offering SkyMed now at very special pricing *for JMB Website Supporters members only — but if you're a nonmember and care to join SkyMed now through us*, we'll enroll you in JMB Website Supporters at the same time (five-year SkyMed memberships only). This offer is available only by phone; email jeff.berger@skymed.com and give Jeff your phone number so he can call you. He'll be happy to answer your questions, tell you about the different types of programs available, and their respective costs. He'll also be happy to fill out your application for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership by phone and at the same time you can set up a JMB Website Supporters membership (required to get the biggest multiyear SkyMed discounts). Americans, Canadians, and ExPats only.

See www.getskymed.com or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com (use the subject "SkyMed inquiry") to learn more and get your questions answered.

Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, short term memberships are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- over 30 countries total. Short-term memberships are very inexpensive, about \$9 per day per person, maximum of about \$15 per day per family. *The disadvantage is that they only cover you for the short term you are traveling; when they expire, your protection disappears, and when you're ready to travel again, you must reapply for a new short-term membership. The process is quick, but you still must be medically approved and at some point, that may be impossible. Bear in mind that many people travel more than once or twice a year, even if it's only a few hundred miles from home. We recommend annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships instead of short-term memberships when you make multiple trips because the cost is about equal. More important, annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of changes in your health or advancing age. You do not want your protection to end just when you may need it most.*

Second, both annual and multiyear SkyMed memberships are essentially permanent coverage. *Once you've been approved and as long as you continue to pay your membership fee on time, **your membership cannot be cancelled as a result of advancing age or declining health** — two critically important advantages that ensure you have coverage when you may need it most.*

Third, Ultimate memberships cover multiple years and provide protection worldwide. The only exceptions are places like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, North Korea — places you won't visit anyway. (Ask before going anywhere dangerous/unusual.) Ultimate memberships also offer the greatest breadth of coverage. You can see a complete list of all the features and benefits of these coverages [here](#).

Fourth, if you're an American or Canadian ex-pat living in St. Maarten / St. Martin or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SkyMed protection in the form of an **ex-pat** membership. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and answer your questions.

In addition to everything else, Jeff Berger has been a SkyMed rep -- and now a SkyMed Ambassador -- for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com. He generally returns messages within 24 hours, weekdays. To see [online frequently asked questions, go here](#). You can also see his SkyMed site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

JMB members get serious discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you're not already a JMB member, join today and take advantage of those discounts.

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstatement/index.shtml>

Ten-Year Price Guarantee on New Five-Year "Ultimate" Memberships

SkyMed is now offering a remarkable 10 year price guarantee on its best memberships, the SkyMed five-year Ultimate. SkyMed ultimate memberships cost only \$499 per year when you pay for their full five year duration at inception. When applying, if you indicate on the application that you want to renew automatically, that renewal will be charged at the same \$499/year rate (prepaid for five years at \$2495) that you had paid *for the full five year new membership at its inception.* All SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of health or attained age: *this ten-year price guarantee is remarkable especially considering what you get: see the details [here](#).*

The best way to get your questions answered is to call Jeff directly on his SkyMed line, 508-747-8281. He can also take your application by phone and send it to SkyMed electronically. Most applications are processed within a few business days. Get it today, before you need it — make your next trip worry-free.

Best Bang for the Buck

SkyMed's biggest bang for the buck comes in its five year Ultimate memberships, which offer the broadest selection of benefits and features of any SkyMed membership as well as the lowest price per day of any membership — roughly \$1.30, or \$499 yearly total for your family when you pay for the five-year term at inception.

JMB SkyMed Bonus: Now, when you purchase a SkyMed five-year Ultimate through us either by phone or by visiting www.getskymed.com, notify us as soon as you receive SkyMed's letter of acceptance and we'll extend your current JMB membership by five full years on us. (JMB members only.) If you're not a JMB Website Supporters member, join now — the savings for our members on all Multiyear SkyMed memberships are very, very substantial.

Answers to a Frequently Asked Question:

What's the upper age limit to join SkyMed? There isn't any: apply today regardless of age.

What's the upper age limit to renew your existing SkyMed membership? *There isn't any.* Just pay your SkyMed renewal on time and your membership will continue regardless of your health or age at the time of your renewal. There is no membership cutoff for advancing age or declining health, unlike so-called competitive programs. *And the price of your renewal membership will not increase due to declining health or advancing age.* We know we repeat this... we do it for very good reason.

SkyMed Takes You Home® -- what else matters?

Detailed Features of SkyMed Memberships:

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Look:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

This is an Adobe Acrobat PDF Document. Your system most likely already has a PDF Reader (free) but if not you can get one here: [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

Contact Jeff About SkyMed:

He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com. He generally returns messages within 24 hours, weekdays. You can also phone him, about SkyMed only, at 508-747-8281 during normal business hours, Eastern time.

29. ... Plus The SkyMed JMB Membership Bonus -- and More Info...

When you join SkyMed through us with a five-year Ultimate membership (SkyMed's lowest cost per day but its most feature-rich medevac membership), notify JMB Website Supporters [at support[at]jmbcommunications.com] upon approval and we'll give you a five-year extension of your JMB Website Supporters membership on us. Got questions? Call Jeff at (508)-747-8281. SkyMed calls only, please.

Join today at www.getskymed.com.

SXM Weekly News
Depends on
JMB Memberships
To keep on publishing ...

Help us continue to bring you
all the SXM news of interest to tourists.

Please join JMB today. [Sale ends July 24!](#)

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

[Get The Current Low Price](#)
[on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)

and keep the current low price on a future 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... *same price.**

Email Jeff now: jeff.berger@skymed.com

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling, saving you upwards of \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance (if you aren't a SkyMed member) to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Email us today. SkyMed emails only. Visit www.getskymed.com.

*When applying at www.getskymed.com, you must approve an automatic 5-year renewal. When you do, your renewal will be at the same price you paid when buying your five-year Ultimate through us. Applies to new SkyMed 5-year Ultimate memberships purchased through us only.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

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?

2017 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.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- 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 .Your username and password are required.

SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 7/2017

See www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. 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 www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

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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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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, contact ***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 respond individually.

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

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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