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Vol. 2, #1109 --- Monday, 8/7/2017
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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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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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

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

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31 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 1/13/2018 1/27/2018 Week 2 and/or Week 3 OCEAN CLUB Studio with balcony overlooking pool. On-site access to beautiful Cupecoy Beach. King-size bed. Sleeps 4. Full-sized frig; well-stocked kitchen. Restaurant on property. Security on premises. Walking distance to many fine restaurants, casinos, beaches and island's only golf course. Breathtaking sunsets. Owner on SXM if any questions \$1000/ week; \$1800 for both weeks. Bob 7812641715 roblurie@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 9/30/2017 10/7/2017 Week 39 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina End unit 3-bedroom penthouse totally renovated 2016 with parking only steps from unit. Unit includes large living room, dining area, fully equipped kitchen and 3 bedrooms each with separate bathrooms. Private enclosed patio with separate dining area seats 8 with mini fridge. Balcony has a hot tub and lounge chairs for enjoying unobstructed views of spectacular sunsets on Caribbean Sea and Simpson bay. Restaurants, a casino, several pools, tennis courts and the beach are all just steps from unit. The unit can sleep 8-10 with 2 Murphy beds and a sleep sofa. Sales of similar units by the resort are priced twice as much. 10,500 Jane (203) 209-8299 eberlewm@optonline.net

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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- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

Now a growing list of 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. Big Storms Moving West Across Africa May Light Up Tropical Atlantic

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of [Crown Weather](#) said recently that because of the "*Madden Julian oscillation*," storm activity in the tropical Atlantic is expected to pick up starting this week.

On Saturday evening we checked satellite images on our www.everythingsxm.com site under "Weather" and saw heavy storm activity moving East to West across Central Africa -- *plus* a storm well east southeast of SXM in the Eastern tropical Atlantic. Fortunately for SXM, that storm is not expected to organize or intensify any time soon -- but it is nonetheless being watched carefully. It could be near near SXM by midweek this coming week. See our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) for frequent updates the next few days.

For even more info, see the weather sources cited in story 3 in this section.

More important, we urge you to spend the very small sum to subscribe to Crown Weather's remarkably inexpensive but critically important hurricane heads-up mailings. They offer the best guidance we've found about what hurricanes are going to do, where, and when, with a greater degree of accuracy than we have seen elsewhere. If you could possibly be in the path of a storm, his words could be extremely important to you.

See [Crown Weather](#) for more info.

2. Most Flights To SXM Still Running -- And They're Busy

Most flights to SXM during the week and the weekend are busy this Summer, passengers are telling us. Some passengers recently posted pictures of winter-like passport lines at SXM Airport one weekend ago.

Most flights continue to operate during Summer, though some use smaller aircraft and a few (such as weekend Jet Blue nonstops from Boston) are seasonally discontinued.

See story 14 for info on what these visitors are doing -- and not doing -- while in SXM.

3. "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.*

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

[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.

5. A Great Villa Vacation Made Better by JMB Members-Only Discounts

In a special mailing to all JMB Website Supporters members a few months ago, they were notified in detail of the special low JMB members-only rates now available for stays at Villa Onyi in Point Blanche through April, 2018.

If you are a JMB Website Supporters member and didn't receive the mailing, go [here](#) to get a copy of the rates PDF. Your username and password are not required for this download. Again, prices apply to JMB Website Supporters members exclusively and are not available to the general public. *If you're still not a member, see the story at the beginning of the next section and join now.*

Villa Onyi is the hilltop villa in Point Blanche with stunning views of the Caribbean and of St. Barths, St. Kitts, and Nevis in the distance, affording residents and guests unmatched serenity and spectacular views of the Heineken Regatta and other Regattas both in St. Maarten and in St. Barths. It is an ultra-luxurious two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa with its own private pool and full gourmet kitchen. It's quite gorgeous inside and out and loaded with amenities. See much more [here](#) and [here](#).

To contact the owner's representative, use these numbers: 1-721-524-7503 or 580-8909 or 1-721-553-1404. Or email them at onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com . Have your current, active JMB Website Supporters Membership Card ready.

**Your Business
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**

That's **Exactly** What We do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

6. 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.

7. 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

8. "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.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

Join Our SXM
Island Discount Program,
JMB Website Supporters:

*****300+ SXM Discounts & Other Benefits*****

*****Great Prices*****

Learn lots more by clicking the links below.

New JMB memberships:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships:

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Hear Jeff Live On Island 92 Radio (91.9 FM or
www.island92.com)
Now Every Monday with Dr. Soc
Between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. Island Time;
(same as EDT)
(Soc is on vacation 8/7; Jeff returns 8/14)

9. SXM Landmark "Cheri's Cafe" Is For Sale...

Contrary to rumors, Cheri's Cafe is not closed -- it's open for business as usual and will go into its annual closing early in September for about six weeks.

The restaurant is for sale, however. Here are some details:

Well established restaurant located in the high traffic area of Maho Beach Resort, right next to the Casino Royale. Throughout its 30 years of existence this restaurant has served over 7 million satisfied customers.

The restaurant sits between 260 – 300 people and includes a fully equipped kitchen, a preparatory kitchen, and a large storage facility. Also included are operational licenses which will enable the proprietor to operate said business in the broadest sense of the word.

The asking price includes the land on which the restaurant sits: you will not owe any landlord anything here. Asking price is \$1.5-million.

We can put you in direct contact with the listing broker if you'd like to look into this. Serious inquiries only, please. Email jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Cheri's Inquiry". Please include your daytime phone number and where you are from.

10. ... As Is the Etna Ice Cream Business

Etna has reached near legend status. Located in a building with no signs on the French Side, Etna makes all-natural super-premium ice cream, without a doubt the creamiest and most delicious you will ever find anywhere. The owners started the business and are now looking to relax. Here is more:

Ice cream manufacturing enterprise privately owned, located in St. Martin, French West Indies. This ice cream is of the highest quality, 14% butter fat, made from the best ingredients, not from a prepared mix.

Established in 1980, making ice cream here in St. Martin for 38 years with great success. Distributing on both French and Dutch sides of the island as well as to Saba, Statia, St. Barths, and Anguilla, its customers are supermarkets (gourmet, mega, and local), restaurants, ice cream parlors, hotels, vendor trucks, etc. If someone needs ice cream in SXM they come to this factory.

Currently the factory works a three and a half day production week with two full-time workers and four part-time workers producing and delivering 200 gallons of ice cream daily. The production facility is 350 m2 and it consists of a 220 m2 production area with storage for dry ingredients, two walk-in freezers 35 m3 & 49 m3 (with room for expansion) and an additional 130 m2 storage for packaging supplies on the second floor. Stocked materials will be inventoried and purchased at the time of Notarial sale. Inventory stock consists of extensive stock (year supply) of containers and printed lids. One month's supply of sugar, powder milk, stabilizer, butter, fruits, nuts, cones, cookies, flavorings, and finished product.

Training will be done up to three months and be available advisors for as long as you need.

We can put you in direct contact with the listing broker if you'd like to look into this. Serious inquiries only, please. Email jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Etna Inquiry". Please include your daytime phone number and where you are from.

11. Singer "Seal" Visits SXM; Loves Island & Wants To Do Concert

Le Pelican is the French Side newspaper and they also do video. Seal was on the island recently and he did a video with *Le Pelican*. In it, he said he loves SXM and may want to do a concert on the island. (Attention Heineken Regatta, check this out...)

Here is [the Seal video](#).

12. Solar Eclipse Coming to SXM

The August 21 solar eclipse will not be total in St. Maarten, but it will be noticeable — and people are preparing to party. If you expect to be on the island that day, a Monday, watch the papers several days ahead and make reservations for the parties. It should be fun.

Never stare directly into the sun during the eclipse or at any other time — it can cause permanent eye injury. Inexpensive eye protection is readily available; a Google search brings up many [inexpensive forms of eye protection](#).

What If???

See many examples of people who were traveling exactly like you and unexpectedly / suddenly needed an emergency medical evacuation from SkyMed -- www.getskymed.com

You'll see exactly what SkyMed did for them and how it works. Get SkyMed protection before you need it -- just like fire insurance.

13. New Ferry Provides Service to Saba

Bear in mind that sailing to Saba from SXM is the easy part. The cruise over, with prevailing currents, is usually reasonably smooth.

The trip back, however, can be a much different story: you are sailing into the wind and against the currents, which can be rough. People who have been on such return cruises in the past, on smaller boats, have compared the inside of the boat they sailed on to a -- pardon the expression -- vomitorium. Seasickness bags will be available for the return trip if indeed you need them, we're sure.

Here's [information about the new ferry](#).

Winair also flies to Saba from SXM and it is a great little airline.

14. Lots of People Visiting, But Not Spending Lots of \$

Visitors to St. Maarten this summer are telling us that the island is fairly busy, based upon numbers of people on airplanes both on weekends and during the week and on the number of people out and about.

Small, inexpensive restaurants and bars near the cruise ship area seem to be doing fine, as are relatively inexpensive places scattered around the island.

However, Front Street jewelers we spoke with are singing a different song: this is certainly not one of their best Summers. Timeshare resorts have their typical comparatively low summer occupancies. Renters are paying low rates which means the demographic of renters is likely lower than that of timeshare owners.

As we've mentioned in recent weeks, there are many things the island needs to do to bolster both the number of tourists it sees in low season and their demographics. So far, we've seen nothing to indicate that the island is working in that direction at all.

See the next story concerning timeshare owner consumer protection legislation, which still has not been fully enacted.

15. Still No Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection: Get It Done

After years of talking, St. Maarten some time ago came up with timeshare owner consumer protection legislation which has not yet gone from concept to reality.

The legislation proposed a Timeshare Authority to carry out policing the legislation. Although major timeshare problems have been relatively rare, those that have happened have been newsworthy — the Caravanserai Debacle, the Sapphire Resort debacle, and the Pelican Resort Club bankruptcy which turned out fine for timeshare owners after days of huge anxiety and numerous sleepless nights.

Today, a Timeshare Authority seems to us to be pointless, expensive overkill. We've heard estimates saying that it would cost timeshare owners roughly \$200 per week owned — assessed yearly. That's \$200 that could be spent in SXM businesses employing and paying island residents who work there -- a far better place to put it than into the government treasury.

The lack of timeshare owner consumer protection has been bad for the industry and horrible for many timeshare owners. It has also been awful for the island's economy. People walking around inside the old Caravanserai resort, now renamed Alegria, have told us they have seen some disrepair and are saying the place is a ghost town: that's bad for the island's economy. (We've visited it ourselves, repeatedly, the last few Winters and it has appeared practically moribund to us.)

Based upon the high degree of integrity with which most timeshare resorts in St. Maarten have been operated for many years, we firmly believe that the self policing strategy they have recommended would be a far superior choice for St. Maarten's timeshare owner consumer protection legislation. *It would also cost timeshare owners next to nothing, leaving more money on the table to benefit island businesses, employee island residents, and pay taxes to support increased tourism marketing which is absolutely essential to the economy of the island.*

16. Where To Find Long-Term Rentals in SXM...

Arun Jagtiani, SXM's top real estate agent (featured on HGTV multiple times and on TV in New York), has been our top recommended go-to source for buying your own home, villa, or condo in SXM. His staff is great and you'll find a few of his available units on our main SXM website, [here](#).

We're seeing a big uptick in interest in moving to SXM and Arun's "Island Real Estate Team" (IREteam) is the top choice in getting it done for you. See their site, www.ireteam.com for more -- and tell them we sent you.

17. Want a Rental? See Hundreds on Our Site

These aren't ads from strangers... we accept ads only from JMB Website Supporters members. We have hundreds of ads posted now on our site, www.everythingsxm.com -- just click the Timesharing page. Many are for rentals and others are for sales. You're dealing directly with timeshare owners, not resorts, and the pricing is usually very reasonable. Check it out.

18. L'Auberge Gourmand Sets Annual Closing

It's closed September 1 to October 15, per Restaurant Manager Jenny.

19. Tropicana Restaurant Annual Closing is Now

Closed now until early October.

20. Annual Closing of Cheri's Cafe and Busby's & Daniel's

Cheri's will close September 4 to October 6.

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and Daniel's by the Sea *never close*, except during hurricanes. They are open every day from early morning until close to 10pm.

Much more on Annual Closings is in the "Files" section of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

21. Looking Forward to Visiting Your Favorite Restaurant?

If you're visiting anytime from now through early November, call first. Particularly in September and October, many restaurants do their Annual Closings.

We reported previously about Spiga, currently closed. And Vesna Taverna is always open for breakfast and lunch but is closed for dinner from now until late October. We'll tell you when they will reopen closer to the date.

Again, much more on Annual Closings is in the "Files" section of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

22. Be Ready Next Time You Visit SXM...

Think your vacations are full of eventful hours? Look at these:

A recent Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She

tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cole Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A man suffered severe respiratory failure and lapsed into a coma on the island. He too was airlifted and returned to Texas where he recovered. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in just about all these cases. *SkyMed took its members home in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.* That one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian expat living in SXM.

Anything can happen. Do it today. To learn more, visit www.getskymed.com. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters at the beginning of this section.

23. Get Our SXM Euro Ovals

Printed with green ink on durable bright white stock, varnished for long life, our copyrighted SXM euro ovals have been adorning cars on SXM and around the world for more than 15 years.

You can now get two for \$10 or five for \$15 mailed first class to your home in the US or Canada. You can pay for them by PayPal or by check. If you pay by PayPal, make sure US dollar funds are sent to Jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the comments section be sure to tell us what you're buying — two for \$10 or five for \$15, SXM euro ovals, and include your current, correct mailing address.

If you pay by check, we accept US dollar checks only drawn on US banks — sorry, no Canadian checks. You can mail them to SXM euro ovals, care of JMB Communications, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Make the check payable to JMB Communications.

We have a decent supply but we suggest you order quickly. Allow 30 days for shipping.

We periodically publish pictures of these on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

24. 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 for JMB Website Supporters members. 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 in times that are tumultuous politically worldwide.

You can also pay the \$59 a month for a month or so 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.

Learn more at www.getskymed.com.

**Your Business
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

25. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #34

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.

Pelican Reef Restaurant, on the Marina Plaza at the old Pelican Resort Club (now Simpson Bay Resort), was the gourmet dining creation of renowned cancer research MD Dr. Marvin Rich and Jean Rich. Wine connoisseurs and gourmet restaurateurs, upon early retirement from their medical careers they elected to open this wonderful restaurant at the old Pelican Resort. It was known for its expertly prepared lobster and shrimp dishes and as well for its Argentinian filet mignon, served with delicious oversized french fries piled artistically in a square lattice fence-like configuration. Great shrimp cocktails to start, as well. Marvin Rich sadly passed away several years ago and the restaurant ultimately closed. Today, Jean Rich continues to stay on the island each winter and is the island's top planner of beach weddings and vow renewals. You can [contact her here](#). The restaurant was taken over by Simpson Bay resort which totally gutted the space and created La Patrona authentic Mexican Restaurant, which won our Everything SXM Award of Excellence this year, not long after it had opened for business.

Readers - What's Your Suggestion? 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 sole source of info for 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 previously 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)
- 32 - The Deli at Mullet Bay Beach Resort (D)
- 33 - Crocodile Cafe (D)
- 34 - Pelican Reef (D)

Note: 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.

26. Restaurant of the Week

Neil Roebert of the Celine Catamaran and now, his bigger, more elegant Celine Too Motor Yacht has for years been known as a great captain who does lagoon cruises, Friday Fun Sails to Tintamarre, Pub Crawls, and many private charters. His Friday Fun Sails and some of his charters are renowned not only for the fun aboard, but also for the great food served up by Chef Neil who, oddly enough, "inherited" his culinary expertise from his son Johann Roebert, the former megayacht chef who opened his "Stone" Restaurant (now on Simpson Bay Lagoon) many years ago. Since the original Celine sank during hurricane Gonzalo, Neil's culinary works sort of sank with it so he technically qualifies to be here. The good news is that he is doing all this and more now aboard his Celine Too motoryacht, moored near the Stone Restaurant. Definitely give it a try. JMB Website Supporters members get Celine Too discounts; see the Secret Site for details. His site is www.sailstmaarten.com. When you book, tell him we referred you. For discounts you must have your JMB Membership card handy.

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.

Celine Too Motor Yacht, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17)
Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishxm.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 7/31/17)
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)

27. Enter Our SXM Summertime 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

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. Answers to Your SkyMed Medevac Questions

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
- See Many Examples of People Who've Needed Emergency Medical Evacuations and Were Taken Home by SkyMed: www.getskymed.com**
- 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/reinstate/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.

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.

Ask Jeff for details -- see preceding article.

31. ... 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](mailto: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.

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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