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Vol. 2, #1121 --- 10/16/2017
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 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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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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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 listings here have been temporarily suspended; many rentals are on our site, as always.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/3/2018 3/17/2018 Week 9, week 10 Villas at Simpson Bay Villa with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Can be used as full 2 bedroom unit that sleeps 8, also can be split to one bedroom, and one studio. Master has king size bed and full bath, living room, full kitchen. Lock off has two queen beds with full bath. Small fridge and microwave. This is an end unit, waterfront, overlooking marina. Restaurants, exercise room, pools, casino, shops and much more on site. Week 9 is regatta week. \$ 14,900 per week Joyce/ 603-224-1833 jecoburn@comcast.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.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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Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

- 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 8/2017)

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 300+** 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 growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

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

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. Airport Reopens With Steel Drum Band, Rum Punch

When he first heard about the airport's planned reopening last Tuesday, October 10, Dr. Soc of Island92.com / Island92 radio in SXM suggested they have a steel drum band. That's exactly what happened — along with rum punch -- to greet the first regularly scheduled passenger airliners to return to SXM since hurricane Irma hit more than a month ago.

Incoming passengers were greeted in temporary quarters as were departing passengers. Many of the people coming to SXM were business owners and others who live there, returning from temporary trips off island to which they had been evacuated. Many said they were delighted to be home, and the island was certainly happy to have them back.

We'll keep you posted here and on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) as the airport ramps up service; that's the fastest way to get this important data to most of our members and readers.

More to come....

2. Tropics Are Relatively Calm... for Now

There are never any guarantees in tropical weather: hurricane season does not end until November 30 and storms have been known to hit as late as Thanksgiving.

That said, the tropics at this writing on Sunday are relatively quiet except for small, weak tropical system Northwest of the northern leeward islands. There does not appear to be anything currently developing which is of concern to SXM.

To keep aware of what's happening in the tropics every day, visit our SXM Weather Center by clicking weather at everythingSXM.com. There, you'll find the latest tropical outlook, plus watches and warnings for any active storms, potential storm tracks, and a number of satellite images and loops showing you what's happening throughout the tropics all the way to Africa.

3. Get Up-To-Date Tropical Outlooks, Watches, & Warnings

Major updates to the Weather section of our everythingSXM.com website were completed over the last few weeks.

In addition to many new real-time tropical weather graphics — including satellite images and new loops — our weather site has now been updated with the National Hurricane Center's latest tropical outlook; tropical weather discussion (for true weather geeks); and the latest forecasts, watches, and warnings for all active storms, plus new track models. .

You can access all this information free, as always: just go to everythingxsm.com and click "Weather" in the masthead.

If you are prospectively in the path of any future approaching storm, we urge you to visit crownweather.com and to sign up for their incredibly inexpensive detailed forecasting service. It's by far the best on the web and it can prove highly useful to you, your family, and your business.

As we've said before, if you are in the path of an approaching storm, never use any website for life or death advice: always rely on directives from local authorities.

4. Four Sources of Current SXM Weather Info (Revised 10/8)

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 and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well.
- 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. They were knocked off the air by Irma but are now back.

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

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

5. **Guaranteed Lowest Rates** for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Around The World

[SkyMed Travel offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide.](#) 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.

6. SXM T/Share Rentals for 2018 Available from Owners

If you're tentatively planning to visit SXM this winter, do check out our listing of timeshare rentals available for 2018. Of course, there's a notice at the top of the page concerning the availability of such weeks at island timeshare resorts.

This week, we will begin to accept ads from our JMB Website Supporters members who own villas on the island and wish to rent their private villas to tourists. We'll be detailing this program in a special message to our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members this week, which is when we'll also be updating our ad input form so it can be used for both private villa rentals and timeshare rentals.

As is the case with timeshare ads, JMB will accept advertising only from members of JMB Website Supporters. To join JMB, please click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com — that's where you'll find membership options including information on our US military memberships.

We look forward to the imminent implementation of this program, which will deliver new benefits for our JMB Website Supporters members and new rental options for our readers.

**It's Not Too Early
To Start Planning**

Your Next SXM Trip.

Let Us Give You

About 300 SXM Discounts

& Other Benefits

In Our "Dog Days" Sale,

Ends Very Soon

**Hundreds of St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts
& Other Benefits at Great Prices:**

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109; One year, \$39
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Four years, just \$89; three years, \$69; one year, \$34

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Four years, just \$89; three years, \$69; one year, \$34

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

7. "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 as we continue to roll out entirely new discounts and benefits.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

Read how...

**People like you
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.**

**Coverage is
available worldwide....
but you must be a SkyMed member
to get these services.**

Get SkyMed protection before you need it
-- **just like fire insurance.**

Got Questions?

**Call Jeff at
508-747-8281 during
normal business hours,
Eastern Time.**

SkyMed is a sponsor of *SXM Weekly News*.

8. Royal Islander Club Employees Get \$82,000 in Donations

Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) for the last several weeks has carried links for a number of island charities benefiting employees of timeshare resorts and other destinations on SXM. Because of hurricane Irma-related difficulties with local banking technology, there have been delays in disbursing badly needed funds to resort employees.

But now there's a hint that this issue is being solved as two representatives of the Royal Islander Timeshare Owners Association visit the island with the express purpose to hand over tens of thousands of dollars to grateful resort employees. (Checks, not cash.)

We hope to have more on this disbursement, scheduled for tomorrow (Tuesday 10/17) in next week's *SXM Weekly News*.

9. Prime Minister Marlin Stalls Help Instead of Embracing It

SXM resident Jeffrey "Dr. Soc" Sochrin said it this way when he posted this story Sunday morning on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#):

"Please urge the sitting government to welcome financial assistance, support and technical assistance from the Kingdom. The Kingdom has done a spectacular job and now the local Government seems to be stalling. The President of the Parliament of St Maarten gets it and she is doing her best to make a difference. This is not a time for ego and politics. It is a time for competence, leadership and action. Let's get with it already! Those of you that know me and my radio program, also know that I stay out of local affairs, however, we are now all fighting to save the island we love. The Kingdom of the Netherlands has done a miraculous job of helping because it is simply the right thing to do. Now I can only hope that our sitting government will also do the right thing. It starts with competence."

[signed] Dr. Soc, Island 92

Here is [the whole story](#).

10. Got SXM Tickets You Couldn't Use? Here's Help

We've received a number of recent complaints from customers of American Airlines expressing unhappiness about AA refusing to refund tickets for flights to SXM. Other passengers in similar situations have said that they have received refunds, though in many cases they had to call back several times to find a more conciliatory agent. Travel writer Christopher Elliott, whose work you have probably read in *USA today*, *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, or elsewhere, spoke with us about this and offered to take a look at people who received neither a refund nor a voucher for future travel from AA or any other airline.

If that describes you, please go to his site and complete the form here: <http://www.elliott.org/help/>. You'll generally receive an acknowledgment within 24 hours.

11. Recap: Many Popular Tour Boats Were Sunk by Irma

In case you missed it, this was posted September 9 on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#)...

From Diane Smith of Random Wind and Neil Roebert of Celine Too:

"I have heard Random Wind is sunk along with Celine Too, Jab Jabs, Passaat, Mirabella, and Quality Time. The US Coast Guard has received over 400 radio beacon distress signals from the area and they are carrying on search and rescue for lives on board. The rest will get the coordinates of their beacons later. I can't even think or worry about it with so many of my islanders homeless. It will all work out."

We have since heard that roughly 200 boats were sunk by Irma in SXM waters alone.

12. Evacuees: We May Have Found Your Luggage

Email: irmaemergencyusc@state.gov if you were airlifted out. Also call 800-521-2116, hours Mon thru Fri 7:30-4:00 ET. Much luggage is at the airport, according to reports we've received.

13. Many Villas Slightly Damaged; Great Alternative Places to Stay

Some of the good news we received during the past week involves villas. Many, it seems, suffered only minor damage. They need repairs, for which they're awaiting insurance adjustment and payment.

In many cases, it's likely that villas will be ready for occupancy starting in December. At the moment, the inventory of available villas is small due to pending repairs. But that inventory is expected to rise sharply by mid December.

We have established a new page on our site which will be posting Villa rentals starting later this week. If you own a villa and are a JMB Website Supporters member, you will be able to post on the page. In fact, a bulletin was sent to all JMB Website Supporters members last night advising them what this page will contain.

We suggest you [bookmark this page now](#) and view it later in the week and thereafter so you can rent a Villa, perhaps with close friends, for your 2017/2018 St. Maarten winter vacation.

14. Businesses Waiting for Insurance Settlements

After being pummeled by record-setting hurricane Irma, some St. Maarten/St. Martin businesses are now grappling with another issue: the slowly turning wheels of insurance settlements.

Johnny Dollar, the fabulous freelance insurance investigator who was the subject of so many fictional radio broadcasts years ago and currently on Sirius XM, has long since departed. Now, real insurance adjusters have thousands of properties to visit, adjust, and pay off. Businesses want to be paid in a hurry so they can rebuild, reopen, and start to get the economy moving again. As we've reported, many restaurants are already open and others are moving toward opening as quickly as they can. You'll find a complete list in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which also has a great deal of other current, useful island information.

15. Come on Down or Not?

Although St. Maarten is not yet ready for tourists expecting a vacation paradise, nonetheless it is moving toward that objective as quickly as it can.

Many tourists have already answered the question, "would you like to return to St. Maarten soon?" on a positive basis. For most tourists, it's a matter of finding accommodations since timeshares are undergoing heavy repairs -- and finding flights.

Flight availability is tied to the number of available beds across the island and that number will be increasing rather rapidly toward the end of this year. A high percentage of properties will be welcoming full occupancy by Spring.

Some smaller hotels are already welcoming guests. Baker's Suites at www.bakerssuites.com is one, located in the pelican area of Simpson Bay. [Princess Heights](#) boutique luxury condominiums on Dawn beach also is already open. And as we said elsewhere, many villas will be coming online by mid December.

If you're thinking of coming down, you may find more available accommodations than you expected. Also, since you're not tied to timeshare week schedules you might very well be able to make reservations on midweek flights. Check with American and Delta for flights to SXM. JetBlue is expected to resume flights in November and we're sure United will be flying to SXM soon. All schedules are temporarily limited in scope.

We'll keep you posted as airlines enhance their schedules.

16. Still More Restaurants Reopen

If you own property on the island and are headed back to assess damage and get repairs going, eating shouldn't be a problem.

A number of supermarkets are open, as has been the case for weeks, and they are being better stocked as time moves on. Many restaurants have reopened as we have reported here and on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#); they're published on a list in the Files area of that site.

We spoke with David Foini of iZi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay whose restaurant is still in its seasonal closing. He told us that except for iZi's new-this-year outside deck, the restaurant is in generally good shape. He said iZi's opening will be delayed since so few tourists are visiting. He tentatively expects to reopen late this year.

17. How to Buy or Rent Out a SXM Villa

This winter, it appears that some smaller hotels and villas will be the preferred places to stay, since many timeshare resorts are closed for rebuilding.

As we noted elsewhere in this issue, the inventory of villas available for rent is expected to start increasing rapidly in December.

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you think), contact our Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). The agent who handles Villa rentals is Anju Snow, who you can reach at anjusb@live.com or 1 721 520 7284. You may want to let her know now that you're interested in a rental for later in the winter.

18. "Perch" Should Reopen Soon on Orient Beach

The Perch bar at naturist Club Orient on Orient beach is being rapidly rebuilt on a temporary basis not far from its original site. We've been publishing photographs of construction progress; bottom line, it's looking good, perhaps so good that you may be able to enjoy some cold, refreshing drinks of your choice at Perch on SXM's most popular clothing optional beach sooner than you may have dared hope.

Needless to say, much of the resort was washed away by Irma and it will be a while before things are anything resembling normal. Nonetheless, we know the resort management is hard at work planning next steps even as the resort crew cleans the property.

As always, we'll keep you posted on the progress of [Club Orient](#)'s reconstruction.

19. Latest Update from Summit Resort Owner Bruce Jakubovitz

Summit Resort owner Bruce Jakubovitz provides the latest update:

- Hi all,
- As you can imagine, these past three weeks have been a roller coaster of emotions.
- Shock at the impact of hurricane Irma on St Maarten in general and on the Summit in particular.
 - Grief over the destruction of a place I have called home for 44 years, my wife has known for 35 of those years and my three sons have known since they were toddlers.
 - Relief that all of our staff survived the storm, especially those who rode it out at the Summit including General Manager Evans, her son Honore and her mother Mena as well as Verna, Ricardo and Brown.
 - Gratitude to the almost 300 donors who generously contributed to our GoFundMe and KindFund campaigns to provide funds to the Summit staff to help them through this terrible time.
 - Appreciation for the folks at WendyPerrin Travel who publicized our plight in an online story.

And now, on top of all this, anxiety as we work with insurance adjusters, lawyers, accountants and others to determine what resources we might be able to draw on to move forward.

I am told the process will take months. During this time we will remain closed with no ability to plan for the future. For those with existing reservations, all are unfortunately cancelled. We will issue refunds of deposits that were paid but this too will take a long time as we currently do not have an office to work out of, working computers, functioning credit card terminals or any of the normal tools and resources that a business relies on to operate.

In short, we are closed indefinitely and it may be quite some time before we are able to announce what, if any, next steps there might be for the Summit. I greatly appreciate the support and words of encouragement received from so many of you. I do not want to engage in speculation here, so will decline any questions of the "what if" variety, and will keep everyone posted as I learn more about the future.

Thank you all for your understanding and patience as we try to work through this incredibly difficult time.

Bruce J.

Note From Jeff: The GoFundMe campaign for Summit employees is listed near the top in our list of all St. Maarten charities on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

20. Please Help Us Continue to Bring You Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin

Everyone,

Hurricane Irma's impact on SXM proved just how critically important *accurate* communications can be in emergencies.

As Irma approached, we went into 24 hour news mode to make sure all the latest local SXM hurricane watches & warnings got to all our readers -- everywhere.

Hurricane expert Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather sent urgent warning messages directly to our readers in seconds through our *Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site*.

All of us -- paid staff on phones and computers in our home office in Massachusetts and global volunteers -- worked hard answering thousands of questions from people living in SXM, tourists stranded there, and relatives trying to find, rescue, and evacuate people stuck in SXM. In fact, in 28 days since Irma hit, we have had over 3,000 posts, over 40,000 comments and over 165,000 reactions... on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

Our *SXM Weekly News* continues to bring you carefully researched, accurate information on the cleanup, recovery, rebuilding, and reopening of SXM to tourists.

Our *Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site* continues to bring you instantaneous news around the clock.

Of course, our [everythingxsm.com](#) site continues to deliver lots of island information as we all look forward to SXM Airport reopening the entire island to tourism in the not too distant future; *SXM Weekly News* will bring that info to you as it happens.

We do not do rumors.

The Weather Center on our [everythingxsm.com](#) site will gear up Thursday and Friday so it's ready to report everything about new Tropical Storm Nate, heading toward the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf coast as an intensifying hurricane.

We also have a "Summertime" SXM vacation giveaway underway now and we plan to launch another early in 2018 as visits to [everythingxsm.com](#) begin to approach an astonishing 5.5 million.

Our only source of revenue for all our "everything SXM" work is your membership in our "JMB Website Supporters" SXM Island Discount Program and your purchases of SkyMed emergency medical evacuation memberships through us at [getskymed.com](#). Please see story #30; our Dog Days membership sale ends October 15 and offers great prices on 300 SXM discounts available only from us.

Please help keep us going. More than ever, right now we need you to join JMB while we offer significant savings on Website Supporters memberships, renewals, and reinstatements.

Everything we're doing re: SXM comes at a cost and we need your membership right now to keep the lights on. In return, you'll become a JMB member and reap significant savings when you return to SXM a few months from now: and we'll be there to help, as we have been since 1992 -- this is our 25th year.

Join, renew, or reinstate your JMB membership now by visiting everythingxsm.com and clicking the page curl at the top of the home page. Our Dog Days sale is on so the price points are something you'll really like.

The vast majority of our readers are going to SXM in 2018 -- but regardless of where you go to warm up this winter, please take SkyMed "Takes You Home"® medical evacuation protection with you. Learn more about it at getskymed.com. For answers to all your SkyMed questions, call Jeff during regular business hours (EDT) at 508-747-8281 or email him at jeff.berger@skymed.com. (SkyMed calls only please)

As always, thanks for reading this and thanks very much for your ongoing support.

-- Jeff Berger

21. Today Newspaper Ceases Operation

The Dutch side's other newspaper, besides the dominant Daily Herald, for the last 15 years or so has been the Today newspaper under the editorial leadership of Hilbert Haar. It has been a David and Goliath struggle since the start and now, when few people have money to buy advertising or buy newspapers, it was time for the newspaper to shut down.

The Today newspaper's owner is Richard Gibson, the Dutch Side government's finance minister, who said he regretted having to do it but really had no choice. Our sense is that the editorial staff, mainly Mr. Haar, fully understood and accepted that. He said that there is a possibility that Today could assume an online presence — but that is not a certainty.

If we hear anything more, we'll pass it along. Our best wishes to the Today staff.

22. What If?

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. Coverage is available worldwide....

Get SkyMed protection before you need it
-- just like fire insurance.

Questions?

**Call Jeff on the SkyMed line,
508-747-8281 during
normal business hours,**

Eastern Time.

SkyMed is a sponsor of *SXM Weekly News*.

23. Rare SkyMed Sale Now Underway

Buy a new SkyMed one, three, or five year membership --OR-- upgrade to a three or five year membership at getskymed.com or by phone at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only)...forward your approval letter from SkyMed to support@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed Sale along with your full street address and daytime phone number... and we will issue you a new or extended JMB membership for the same number of years.

Limited time only. You've been thinking about doing this -- now is the time. **Upgrade bonus applies to SkyMed memberships bought from us.**

SKYMED Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Global coverage is available and it's standard on Ultimate three- and five-year memberships. Call us for details.

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

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

SkyMed medical evacuation programs protect your pocketbook and your health when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. That's 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 --- 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 two then convert to the prepaid Ultimate membership to grab those prepayment savings. For info, call Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). He can answer all your questions and even help you get signed up. *Please also see the next story.*

Learn more at www.getskymed.com.

25. Traveling Anywhere This Winter? "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, simply obtain your SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of the date your travel begins.

Jeff can answer all your SkyMed questions and 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 anywhere in January, February, or March? 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.

26. JMB Military Memberships: Four Years \$67.96 & Platinum

We reserve our best rates for US military. You can join our JMB Website Supporters discount program via a military membership or you can upgrade to military — your choice. Either way, the cost is just \$67.96 for four full years. See the details by clicking the page curl on our site, everythingSXM.com.

As a military member, you are also instantly upgraded to Platinum Status — normally awarded only to members whose memberships expire more than eight years into the future. Your Platinum Status begins as soon as your military enrollment occurs and is permanent, irrespective of how many years in the future your military membership expires. All you need for documentation is your DD 214.

Do it today and tell your SXM tourist friends — it's our lowest rate.

27. About 300 SXM Discounts Are Yours in Our "Dog Days" Sale, *Ending Very Soon*

Our Dog Days membership sale Ends on October 15. It's your best opportunity to obtain 300 discounts on virtually everything you do during your island vacation.

When we return to the island later this year, will be meeting with many of our discount partners and will keep you posted on when they will reopen, if they aren't back already by that time. We also expect to be adding many new partners for the winter season.

Stay tuned — and definitely plan on being in SXM this winter. As we set elsewhere in this issue, we expect many timeshares to the open ahead of schedule on a staggered basis.

28. 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](#).

29. Be Ready for Whatever Happens...

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

An MD from Florida on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed *which arranged and paid for* an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: big time.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

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.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in 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 \$1.35/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 or certain other countries.

Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere. 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.

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

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

30. 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 has been deferred until January, 2018.

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.)

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

31. 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.

32. 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/reinststate/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 your first 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- see preceding article, or call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.)

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

Now when you join SkyMed through us with a one-year, three-year, or 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 (send us SkyMed approval email) and we'll give you an extension of your JMB Website Supporters membership on us for the same number of years. See story 17. 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 or Call 508-747-8281

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 8/21/17)

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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