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Vol. 2, #1126 --- 11/13/2017
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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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.
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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 more than 300,000 people around the world...**

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Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



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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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32 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 listings here have been temporarily suspended; many rentals are on our site, as always.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/17/2018 3/24/2018 Week 11 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina This is a one bedroom unit on an upper floor of the of the upper B units (Bougainvillea bldg). It has a spectacular sunset view and overlooks the B pool. It was recently upgraded and includes two Murphy beds in addition to the main bedroom. Asking \$8,000 US Donna 865-458-0426 tbirdbill@yahoo.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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27. The Full Story of Irma is On Our PDF Site
28. Traveling Anywhere for Thanksgiving? SkyMed Takes You Home®
29. Now: Just \$59/month* for SkyMed's Best Medevac Protection
30. Get Our SXM Euro Ovals

31. Still Time: Enter Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway

32. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

====Restaurant of the Week Returns Next Week====

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. Hurricane Season Winding Down; "Ends" Nov. 30

Although the 2017 hurricane season technically ends 11/30, hurricanes have actually formed historically over most of the year. They're simply uncommon from December 1 through the end of May.

The 2017 hurricane season, of course, will go down in history as one of the most destructive ever. We're not going to say anything about what might happen in the last two and half weeks of the season. Suffice it to say that we're quickly closing in on the finish line and we, like you, hope the rest of the season is boring.

Our partner through all of this has been Crown Weather, CrownWeather.com headed by Rob Lightbown. Although on these pages you usually see the work that he does related to the tropics, Crown Weather also covers winter weather in the US very closely from its headquarters in Massachusetts. If your business can be affected by weather, sign on for Crown Weather's in-depth services; they're economical but incredibly valuable and useful.

2. 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.

3. 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.*

4. **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.

5. Will That Billion Dollar Lawsuit Against Diamond Resorts Affect SXM Timeshare Owners?

During 2017, a billion-dollar class-action lawsuit was filed against Diamond Resorts International in Nevada, its home state.

As far as we can tell, the lawsuit remains active. Being aware of the suit, some timeshare owners at both Diamond Royal Palm Resort and Diamond Flamingo Resort have expressed concern to us about DRI's prognosis should it lose this lawsuit. Both resorts are closed until at least 2019 and possibly later, but they're still collecting annual maintenance fees according to their timeshare owners.

We've asked Amber Eck, one of the litigating attorneys for the plaintiffs, for her comment in response to this concern. She had not replied by press time.

At this point, the answer to the question in our headline is unclear. We're keeping an eye both on the lawsuit and on Diamond Resorts actions that may affect its timeshare owners in St. Maarten.

As always, we'll keep you posted. Here's [more](#).

6. Simpson Bay Resort: Latest Updates

A source inside Simpson Bay Resort gave us the following updates:

- All of the debris at the resort, including the numerous wrecked cars that were in the vicinity of the of the B and C buildings, has been removed.
- The C and D buildings have been cleared out and all material that can be salvaged, including appliances, from all damaged units, has been removed and stored.
- All buildings, including C and D, should be fully assessed in the next 30 to 60 Days.
- Two new generators were delivered to the resort and installed.
- Air conditioning repair is ongoing for the large a/c units that serve the Villas building.
- Workers have started repairing the damaged roofs and the exterior hallways and walkways.
- The restaurants (La Patrona, Replay Sports Pub) are open and have been drawing people from around the island.

SXM Weekly News expects to hear more from SBR about all the topics you've asked about once the assessments have been completed. SBR is larger than many college campuses, and with the extreme demand on insurance adjusters and insurance companies, the assessments do take time. Nonetheless, the resort continues to work on

repairs.

When will Simpson Bay reopen? It had previously announced April but a source inside SBR told us this weekend: "It is not set in stone – if we can re-open sooner we will try to."

7. Correction: Bel Air Beach Resort To Open During March

We recently published an article which misstated the opening date for Bel Air Beach Resort. The resort tells us that it will be reopening during the month of March — as soon as they're ready.

8. Ocean Club Expected To Rebuild, But Few Members Know

Timeshare owners at Ocean Club in Cupecoy have been openly expressing frustration with Ocean Club owner Eric, who they say has given them very little information on the future of the resort.

Ocean Club was badly damaged by hurricane Irma. But Porto Cupecoy and Sapphire Beach Club, both nearby, had comparatively little damage, while Summit Resort Hotel which was built primarily with wood back in 1973 was demolished by Irma.

The difference is construction. Pictures of Ocean Club posted on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) show wood in a lot of the walls. Clearly, wood was no match for the ferocity of killer category five hurricane Irma, which caused catastrophic damage across the island.

Built just before hurricane Luis hit the island in 1995, Sapphire beach club suffered comparatively little damage then. It had more serious damage from hurricane Irma, a far more powerful storm, but that damage was light compared to the utter destruction of wood buildings elsewhere on the island. Porto Cupecoy also survived remarkably well -- including its windows. Many windows used elsewhere weren't designed to withstand the forces exerted by major hurricanes.

But back to Eric. We are hearing from timeshare owners on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) that Eric has told some of them that he does intend to rebuild. However, insurance assessments are continuing across the island and that is a slow process. We're sure that as soon as he knows exactly what will be involved to rebuild, how long it will take, and what if anything may be required financially from timeshare owners, he will let everyone know.

We continue to follow this as always and will keep you posted.

9. Private Villas for Rent Listed on Our SXM Site; List Yours

If you want to visit SXM this winter and your timeshare isn't available, seriously consider combining forces with others and renting a villa on SXM.

Villas give you a lot of advantages including privacy, luxury, serenity, and great creature comforts. Our new Villa rentals page lists a number of villas we have long recommended; on-island sources of outstanding Villa accommodations; and, we expect starting this week, other privately owned villas from our JMB Website Supporters members.

You'll find the page [here](#).

If you're a member of JMB Website Supporters and you want to post an ad for a villa you own in SXM on our site, making it available for rental, here's how to do it:

1. Log into the members-only secret site.
2. Click the link on all pages that says Submit an Ad.

3. Click the link on the top of the timeshare rental ad submission page that says [Submit an Ad for a villa rental](#).
4. Follow the instructions on the villa ad submission page.

Check out [the new villa rental page](#). Hundreds of villas are expected to be available through our sources by mid December, only a few weeks away.

Why go anywhere else when you can come back to SXM?

10. SXM Timeshare Rentals for 2018, 2019 Available on Our Site

If you're tentatively planning to visit SXM this winter, do check out our listing of timeshare rentals available for 2018 and 2019 on our site. (2019 rentals will start being posted as soon as members start submitting them, likely this coming week.)

We have begun to accept ads from our JMB Website Supporters members who own villas on the island and wish to rent their private villas to tourists; see prior article. The first villa ads from our members will be posted later this week.

[Not a JMB member? JMB membership delivers about 300 discounts and other benefits across SXM: see the beginning of Section 4 and sign up now.](#)

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

11. "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 months as we continue to roll out a number of entirely new discounts and benefits.

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

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

**KEEP SXM WEEKLY NEWS COMING
AND**

**Get About 300 SXM Discounts
& Other Benefits - by joining our
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**

Your Support enables us:

- To continue to enhance the palette of SXM discounts we offer you through JMB Website Supporters membership;
- To keep **SXM Weekly News** free;
- To give away SXM vacations;
- To deliver tons of SXM info through everythingsexm.com, our Everything SXM Facebook Site, and right here in **Weekly News**.

Please Join, Renew, or Reinstate Now:

New JMB memberships: One year \$59; Two, \$79; Three, \$99; Five, only \$129
http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: One year, \$39; Two, \$59; Three, \$79; Six, \$139
www.everythingsexm.com/secret Go to the **Membership Renewal Center**

JMB Membership Reinstatements:
One year, \$39; Two, \$59; Three, \$79; Six, \$139
<http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

12. Dutch Side Parliament Throws Out Prime Minister Marlin

If tar and feathers had been handy, there is a possibility that the members of the new coalition government of St. Maarten -- not to mention a lot of fed-up island residents -- might have used them on now former Prime Minister William Marlin. Instead, they simply relieved Marlin of his duties as Prime Minister of the Dutch Side effective immediately.

Here is [the full story](#) from the Dutch Side's newspaper, *The Daily Herald*.

13. Editor of "Destination" Magazine Writes About SXM's Status

Kerry Biddle, longtime managing editor of the *Destination* magazine given to American Airlines passengers headed for St. Maarten, wrote an excellent article for Destination's website about the status of St. Maarten. We thought you'd like to see it so [here it is](#). Very good info.

14. You May Owe a Big Thank You to Trinity Houston

Read this, regardless of the resort you were evacuated from after Irma:

"Simpson Bay Resort (SBR) was contacted by the US State Department to let SBR know there were a bunch of bags held in 'a secure area' at the airport. We had been previously advised that all of the bags left at the airport had been donated already, and that none were left, but apparently they just lost track of them for a little while. Anyway, Trinity Houston went to the Airport to retrieve luggage for SBR members, but it turned out there were hundreds of bags there that had been left behind by people from all over the island.

"On her own time, without pay, she took it upon herself to sort through the bags that are held in an area without air-conditioning (and with a bunch of standing water, mosquitoes, etc.) and tracked down every single person she could find to arrange for their bags to be sent back to them (if they wanted the bag back; some people donated them). She did this for everyone, whether they were Simpson Bay Resort members or not...."

Got questions? Contact Trinity via [Facebook](#).

Much more about reclaiming your luggage left in SXM is on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) in the Files area.

15. Top Carrot Is OK, Tropical Wave Isn't

The Top Carrot restaurant in Simpson Bay has reopened for business. It's the most popular place on the island for vegetarian/vegan food.

However the Tropical Wave restaurant on Le Galion Beach fared poorly, as you might expect: it was destroyed by hurricane Irma. But here's the *rest* of the story:

Patrick Turner has owned Tropical Wave for decades and his legendary tenacity won't be stopped by a stupid hurricane. His [Facebook Site](#) says "Tropical Wave will live on. Rebuild with the authorisation of certain departments underway. Be strong and Gofund me."

Go Patrick!

16. Dutch Side Ready For Tourists, French Side Not So Much

Two months plus one week is all that's passed since Irma nailed SXM.

This time, the Dutch Side has been highly dynamic in its recovery. The start was clumsy (not surprising seeing the catastrophic damage Irma caused), but they've been going flat out to clean up and get ready and have been notably successful.

The French Side is a different story. Grand Case Lolos are coming back, but action elsewhere is very slow. Insurance adjustment is one issue, previously ignored regulations are another. Those regulations may make it difficult for businesses facing Grand Case beach to rebuild.

On Orient, the Collectivite is saying it wants any new buildings to be capable of being packed up and removed when another big storm threatens - like trade show booths.

17. SXM Timeshare / Hotel Employees Still Need Your

Help

You will likely remember that more than 90% of all buildings on St. Maarten were at least damaged by category five hurricane Irma — and many were destroyed. The people of St. Maarten still need your help. On our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), in the Files area, we list many charities including the complete rundown of charities benefiting hotel/timeshare employees who need our help now. Please see the list and pick the ones you're ready to help. All the info you need is there and it's frequently updated.

18. Bakers Suites, Atrium, Hotel Mercure Are All Open...

Baker's Suites and Atrium Resort, both on the Dutch Side, and Hotel Mercure on the French side in Sandy ground are all open.

Atrium has said it is not available to tourists, but a number of tourists we know have made reservations online with Atrium after the first of the year without issue. Both Mercure and Baker's Suites also have online reservations capabilities. Baker's Suites gives discounts to JMB Website Supporters members as it has since it opened.

You can also get substantial discounts from our car rental partners on the island. See our JMB Website Supporters members-only secret website for details. If you're still not a member, see the beginning of this section and join today. Prices are economical and you'll have everything you need in time for your vacation.

19. Dutch Side Getting €550-Million Aid Package from Holland

Here's [the complete story](#). This is equivalent to almost \$642,000,000 in current dollars.

The government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands says the Dutch side government must agree to the Kingdom's conditions for the receipt and use of the funds. Now that William Marlin will be out of the picture, that should be no problem; he had been the principal obstacle until Parliament voted "no confidence" and threw him out.

20. Now: Really No Reason to Vacation Elsewhere

If you want to get away from the freezing cold to an island with gorgeous beaches, people who will genuinely welcome you, comfortable places to stay, friendly bars with smiling faces, and great shopping — you really don't need to go anywhere other than SXM.

We've been saying for weeks that the island would be ready to accommodate you by mid December. Flight levels are increasing and will be increasing even more in January, and there are plenty of places to stay — see other stories in this section.

Plus, most of your favorite restaurants are already open and more will be opening over the next several weeks.

The sun is the same everywhere in the Caribbean... but *there is only one SXM*.

21. About That Message in a Bottle

We recently told you about a message in a bottle that was thrown overboard from a cruise ship off St. Maarten on New Year's 2013.

It was found on a barrier island off Baton Rouge, Louisiana, within the last few weeks — and we want to find the person who launched it.

Here's the complete story from *SXM Weekly News* of a couple of weeks ago:

On a New Year's cruise off the waters of St. Maarten at the end of 2012, someone put a pen-written note in a whiskey bottle and threw it overboard.

Like many others who had thrown messages in bottles into the sea over the years, they likely figured they'd never hear about it again.

They were wrong, as they'll discover when --hopefully-- they read this story.

Mary Lynn saw a post in her Facebook timeline from Wyatt Webb, a friend who liked fishing in the coastal waters off Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi. Seems Wyatt saw something bobbing in the water and he retrieved it.

A small note inside the clear glass bottle was a bit smudged by water, but he could read clearly: "Happy New Year. 2012-2013 cruise St. Maarten. kusaxxx@hotmail.com."

It was found in the Chandeleur islands in the Gulf of Mexico south of Biloxi and well east of New Orleans.

Thanks to Mary Lynn, a photo of the bottle and the note are on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). We emailed two possible addresses for the bottle thrower, one of which was to a TV news department at KUSA in Colorado. We'll let you know what we hear -- nothing yet.

We don't know if many bottles survive such long trips -- this one was almost 3,000 km -- particularly when they're glass bottles in hurricane-battered areas. We've made contact with Wyatt and hope to have more on this soon.

22. JMB Remembers America's Finest With Military Memberships

Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Includes a wrinkle that extends far beyond Veterans Day: discounted memberships for people who have served in the US military that are available every day of the year.

Once you're enrolled as a military member, your status is automatically elevated to Platinum. That means that when you submit a timeshare rental or sale ad, or a villa ad, your ad is automatically posted ahead of all other ads for the same date and it is highlighted as well: highlighting normally cost \$20 extra per ad. Nonmilitary platinum members become platinum when their membership expires more than nine years into the future. Military platinum members, by contrast, become military by purchasing the military upgrade and submitting their DD 214 with their serial number obliterated. For military platinum members exclusively, the platinum status is permanent as long as they are JMB members.

Military members always pay our absolute lowest rate. You can buy a new military membership or upgrade to military membership by clicking [this link](#) -- information is on that page. Or, just send us a check for four years of military membership at \$16.99 per year when prepaid at \$67.96. for four years. Include your DD 214 or email a copy of your DD 214 to us if you buy by PayPal. Please obliterate your serial number. You can email it to support@jmbcommunications.com, but never email credit card information to anyone — email is not secure. If you have questions, support@jmbcommunications.com is the email address to use for answers.

23. Our "Award of Excellence" Survives Irma at Busby's

Everything on the ocean at Dawn beach received an incredible beating from hurricane Irma.

That included the island's most popular beach bar, Mr. Busby's, along with its nighttime iteration Daniel's by the Sea.

The numbers of tourists visiting the island is just now starting to increase and we're seeing rising numbers of pictures on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) of rebuilding -- and of stuff that is frankly odd. For example...

After the storm, Busby's looked like a jumble, mainly because its wooden decks and gazebos were ripped up by Irma and tossed around like matchsticks. Once the palm trees were removed and the mazes of wood unscrambled, the main building of Mr. Busby's actually looked pretty good. The stone wall near the waiting area for the restaurant had a few framed awards posted on it including our *Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence* — framed with a glass covering. Despite all the chaos around it -- the storm surge which was up to the roof of the building, pounding

waves, and gusts well in excess of 200 mph -- the award stood intact. The glass wasn't even broken.

The owners of the restaurants are still in talks with insurance adjusters but maybe, just maybe, this is a sign. A key Award of Excellence that survived the second most powerful tropical cyclone in world history means a lot....

24. Got Hotel Reservations? Reconfirm

If you have hotel reservations for SXM, be sure to reconfirm them. Some hotels that expected to be ready at a certain time have had to adjust their scheduled reopening — some for earlier, some for later.

To be safe, never assume anything. You don't want to be surprised when you get to your hotel and find it's not ready.

The same is true for airline reservations. Some airlines, especially from Canada, have cut flights. US airlines have been slowly restoring some flights, and that will increase especially in January.

Definitely reconfirm your flights.

25. Freezing Weather at Home? 80s in SXM....

Sometimes when you're freezing at home in the US or Canada it's almost impossible to believe that the weather is gorgeous, the sun is bright, sand is warm, and the water temperature is close to 88° in SXM.

Today's issue has explained in a fair amount of detail how the island has become so attractive in the two months and one week since Irma's visit. Only about a month from now, cruise ship visits restart, hundreds of villas will finish fixups and become available, and visitors are expected to return in steadily increasing numbers.

There's no reason you can't be one of them.

26. All Our Recommended Rental Car Companies Are Open

A number of the island's top car rental companies have long offered JMB Website Supporters members significant discounts on car rental rates.

All of our car rental partners are open and they have cars waiting for you. To get our heavily discounted rates, JMB members need only login to our members-only secret website and go to the Discounts Master Index where you'll find car rentals and dozens of other types of island benefits and discounts. Choose your car rental company, make the call, give them any necessary code, and then show your JMB Website Supporters Membership Card when you're on the island for our exclusive low car rental rates.

27. The Full Story of Irma is On Our PDF Site

If you are new to *SXM Weekly News* and are curious about the full story behind hurricane Irma as it unfolded since the beginning of September, here are two places where you can start looking:

First, see our [SXM Weekly News PDF archives](#). With a link to Adobe Acrobat PDF copies of every issue for the last few years, most recent first, the archives will let you read all of the news as it happened from each issue.

To see many hundreds of photographs of the aftermath of Irma, just see our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and click Photos. They're all there. The latest update of our Adobe Acrobat PDF archives page occurred today (11/13). The archives include recent issues as well as every issue from the last few years. Check it out.

The latest issue will post soon. It is now mailing. If you're receiving it by pass-along, subscribe yourself at sxmweeklynews.com.

28. Traveling Anywhere for Thanksgiving? Get SkyMed Medevac Peace-of-Mind Now: SkyMed Takes You Home®

No matter where you go, take SkyMed medical evacuation protection with you: SkyMed Takes You Home(R) to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Without SkyMed, that medevac trip home could easily cost you upwards of \$45,000 payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that?

Get SkyMed protection now, before you need it. See www.getskymed.com. Got questions? Phone SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 weekdays during regular office hours, Eastern time.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklyne.../SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

SkyMed Bonus:

Buy a new SkyMed one, three, or five year membership --OR-- upgrade to a three or five year membership at www.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. Strictly limited time only. You've been thinking about doing this -- now is the time.

Upgrade bonus applies only to SkyMed memberships bought from us.

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. What else matters? Global coverage is available. Call us for details.

29. 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.

30. 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](#).

**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.

31. Still Time: 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, though for obvious reasons those dates are subject to change. 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

Dates for all vacations subject to change thanks to Irma....

32. 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.

[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 -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See getskymed.com.

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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