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=====H A P P Y THANKSGIVING!=====

Vol. 2, #1127 --- 11/20/2017  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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

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

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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

**Important Note:**

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 300,000 people around the world...**

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



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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](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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- **Thanksgiving on SXM**
- **A Series of SXM Travel Disasters...**
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- **New Bonus From SkyMed Gives You Free Extra Years of JMB**
- **Now: Just \$59/month\* for SkyMed's Best Medevac Protection**
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**31** news stories this week

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## Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

### **SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:**

RENTAL 1/13/2018 2/17/2018 Weeks 2,3,4 & 5 The Atrium A month at the ATRIUM!!!! Weeks 2 and 3 in a one-bedroom corner unit facing the ocean and Weeks 4 and 5, a one-bedroom corner unit facing the ocean. The Atrium is open to Owners as of Week 48, 2017. Contact Bob at 508-380-9826. These units are also listed for sale. \$1500 per week Bob 508-380-9826 [andgeo89@gmail.com](mailto:andgeo89@gmail.com)

### **SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

SALE 2/3/2018 2/10/2018 weeks 4,5 The Atrium A one bedroom corner unit facing the ocean for weeks 4 and 5. Also have a one-bedroom for weeks 2 and 3. \$5500 per week. That is a month at The Atrium! \$5,500.00 Robert 508-380-9826 [andgeo89@gmail.com](mailto:andgeo89@gmail.com)

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsxm.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\***  
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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 Ends Nov. 30**

Although there are only a few days left of the 2017 hurricane season, unfortunately all of us will remember it the rest of our lives.

Hurricane Irma was the most powerful Atlantic hurricane in history and the second most powerful tropical cyclone in recorded world history. It made a direct hit on St. Maarten with sustained winds of 185 mph and gusts reported to be in excess of 220 mph.

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30, although storms have been known to form outside of that schedule. We will keep our eyes open even after the season ends.

To see a substantial amount of information about Caribbean weather all year long, go to our [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) website and click Weather; that brings you to our Weather Center which offers current satellite images and image loops, weather radar, and tropical forecasts.

Should anything unexpected happen affecting weather in SXM, we'll report it quickly on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

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## 2. SXM Airport Runway Lights Being Replaced

The LED landing lights which guide aircraft on SXM Airport's runway and its taxiways were knocked out by hurricane Irma. New lights have arrived and are, as we understand it, in the process of being installed.

Once they are installed, tested, and operational, the lights — in concert with the control tower, which had also been knocked out by Irma but was later restored — will enable aircraft to fly into and out of SXM Airport at night. See much more about airport operations in stories 3, 4, and 21.

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## 3. Bigger Tents Due at SXM Airport

While SXM Airport's terminal building continues to undergo repairs to its roof and infrastructure, which were heavily damaged by hurricane Irma, arriving and departing passengers are served in temporary tents outside the terminal building. We've heard that those tents may be replaced by larger versions to accommodate passengers from increased numbers of incoming aircraft.

Regardless of what size the tents are, local people are greeting arriving tourists warmly and welcoming their return to the island. The precise date of the main terminal's return to service is not yet clear; as soon as we know, we'll pass along the information. We asked airport staff members but had not heard from them by transmission time for this issue.

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## 4. Which Airlines Are Flying to SXM From Where?

We're keeping a close eye on frequently changing airline schedules involving service to SXM.

American Airlines, Delta airlines, JetBlue Airways, and United are the main US carriers to SXM. We update information about their points of embarkation from the US to SXM and the frequency of service as soon as we receive their schedule updates. That information will shortly be posted in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), in conversation threads, or both.

Since it takes almost three days for this newsletter to reach all of its recipients, it makes no sense for us to post that info here since it could change by the time you read it. So, for the latest data, do see our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). We'll be posting updates there upon receipt.

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## 5. 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 [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.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](http://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.



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## 6. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.*

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## 7. **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.

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## 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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)**

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

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### 8. Hotels Now Open on SXM

When we wrote this final update early this morning, the following Dutch and French Side Hotels were open or said they would open soon. We list Dutch first, French second. This is a cross-section. More are on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

Atrium (according to SHTA for contractors and ins. adjusters, only; general reopening early 2018)

Azure Hotel (Dec. 15, 2017) <http://azurehotelsxm.com/>

Baker's Suites (Simpson Bay opposite Atrium on Billy Folly Rd.) [www.bakerssuites.com](http://www.bakerssuites.com)

Commodore Suites (Reservations: +1 721-544-311 or +1 721-587-3052 or email them at [booking@commodoresuites.com](mailto:booking@commodoresuites.com).)

El Zafiro - <https://www.facebook.com/ELZafiroSXM> - Dec. 1, 2017

Holland House

Princess Heights Luxury Boutique Condo Suites Hotel @ Dawn Beach.....

Simpson Bay Suites (Not related to Simpson Bay Resort)

Turquoise Shell Inn (according to SHTA)

French Side:

Bleu Emeraude - Grand Case - Feb. 1, 2018 <http://www.bleueneraude.com/>

The Hotel Mercure St Martin Marina & Spa is open, with a buffet breakfast offered every lunchtime and evening

Reservations by email at [H1100-fo@accor.com](mailto:H1100-fo@accor.com) or telephone +(59) 0590 87 54 54

Also see many [condominium and villa rentals offered on our site](#) (hundreds in total).

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### 9. Two Big SXM Timeshares Re-Open Soon

Both Atrium Resort and Sapphire Beach Club are reopening early in 2018.

Sapphire Beach Club was built very well and has made it through several hurricanes including Irma in comparatively good shape. Like virtually all SXM structures, it has required some post-Irma fixups. But the Beach Club is expected to reopen early in 2018.

Atrium Resort is already serving craftspeople involved in rebuilding SXM, and it is advertising its availability to the community. Timeshare owners are saying that they have been told their units will be available early next year.

Timeshare rentals from Atrium for 2018 already have been posted on our [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) website.

Bel Air Beach Club will open during March, as previously announced here.

For much more information, see our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

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### 10. Reminder: Summit Resort Closed Permanently

As we previously reported, the venerable Summit Resort Hotel in Cupecoy, built in the early 1970s, was demolished by hurricane Irma and is not salvageable. The resort has permanently shut down. For the full story including a letter written to timeshare owners and others by resort owner Bruce Jakobovitz, see our [SXM Weekly News PDF archives](#) page.



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## 11. Hundreds of Villas for Rent; See Our SXM Site

We just completed a major update of our Villa rentals page on everythingSXM.com. The new [Villa rentals page is here](#). There is great availability right now which will become even more substantial by mid December, when more villas come online after minor repairs necessitated by the passage of Irma.

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## 12. Timeshare Rental Listings Updated; Condos Ready for 2018

We have removed all timeshare rental listings for 2017 from our site, for obvious reasons.

With Sapphire Beach Resort and Atrium coming back online very early in 2018, you'll be interested to see the timeshare rentals we offer on our site, everythingSXM.com. Do check them out.

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### **SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits**

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

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

*We now offer about 300 discounts (including those now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming 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](#).

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### **SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features**

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**BLACK FRIDAY --**  
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**OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR --**

**BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 9PM EST**

**UNHEARDOF LOW BLACK FRIDAY PRICING**

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

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## Please Join, Renew, or Reinstate Now:

New JMB memberships: One year \$29; Two, \$49; Our Best Offer: Five years just \$99

Pricing begins Wednesday night at 9pm EST & Ends Monday Night 11/27 at 9pm PST

[http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal JMB memberships: Two years, \$39; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$89

Pricing begins Wednesday night at 9pm EST & Ends Monday Night 11/27 at 9pm PST

[www.everythingsexm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsexm.com/secret) Go to the **Membership Renewal Center**

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

Two years, \$39; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$89

Pricing begins Wednesday night at 9pm EST & Ends Monday Night 11/27 at 9pm PST

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

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## These Web-Buster Prices Won't Be Back

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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**.

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### 14. Court Rules Against Lee's; They Must Vacate by February 1

Lee's Roadside Grill, an institution in Simpson Bay for decades, appears to have exhausted its last appeal and has been ordered by the court to vacate its current premises by February 1, 2018.

Although the court has had its say, few customers expect Lee to go meekly. Some customers are already saying in

social media that regardless of what other businesses go on that property, they will be met by a customer boycott.

There are other properties in the area that could be available should Lee's decide to relocate.

We don't expect this will be the last you'll be reading here about Lee's Roadside Grill.

Richard at Lee's posted this on their Facebook site: "Lee's Roadside Grill is 25 year establishment by a local in Simpson Bay that has reopened, with no help from the SXM government, but for the people of SXM to try to bring normalcy for the people and the island. Does the Sxm government not see this? what is their motive for not supporting Lee's and the island folks? Lee's is a tax revenue generating business for the benefit of everyone. So many businesses closed because of Irma and now they are closing a business that is open. No surprise Holland wants back in to restore all the wrongs."

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## 15. Meyers Named New Dutch P/M; Elections in February, New Parl. in April

Franklin Myers, who has long been involved in Dutch side politics, has been named Country St. Maarten's new Prime Minister.

As we previously reported, former Prime Minister William Marlin was thrown out by Parliament after they conducted a vote of no-confidence and Marlin lost his majority coalition government.

New elections are now expected in February with a new Parliament expected to be formed in April even though no one except Marlin seems to want elections.

Here are [details](#).

We'll keep you posted. Please see the next article for the bottom line on the tourist effects of all this.

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## 16. Will You Notice Any Effects from Govt. Changes?

No.

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## 17. King, Queen, Sec'y of State Coming 11/30

The King, Queen, and Secretary of State of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will be visiting SXM from November 30 for a couple of days.

Much more on this Royal visit [is here](#).

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## 18. Pictures, Videos, Answers Are on Our SXM FB Site

Regardless of what you're looking for about St. Maarten, you'll find it on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). That includes pictures, videos, answers to all kinds of questions, and more, around the clock.

Our growing site has more than 18,000 members worldwide. Almost regardless of what time you ask questions, answers come quickly — so join and ask away.

## 19. "Below Deck" in SXM Winding Down

The long-time Bravo cable network hit *Below Deck*, about yacht crews, shot last March in SXM, only has a few more episodes to air this season. The primary theme this year seems to be how does a luxury yacht deal with a green crew.

SXM offshore and onshore attractions are featured in the production. We do know that some taping was done for a crew dinner at Toppers but we don't recall having seen that dinner yet in the broadcast — so it may still be coming.

We've asked people associated with the production whether there has been any decision on renewing *Below Deck*. They haven't heard but since *Deck* is one of Bravo's biggest hits, we expect it to be renewed.

We also don't know whether filming will be done again in St. Maarten. We're told it could even move out of the Caribbean -- that has not been decided.

If it is renewed and you are interested in being on the program as a charter guest, you'll need to contact Bravo and submit information to the production company. You do pay a reduced rate for the charter, but it isn't inexpensive and there is very little privacy.

We'll keep you posted.

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## 20. Viking Cruise Ship Due 12/4; Royal Caribbean Returns 12/17

The cruise ships are about to return to St. Maarten.

Viking cruises will kick off the post-hurricane cruise ship season on the island in two weeks, on December 4. Royal Caribbean will return to SXM on December 17.

December, 2017, will be far from a normal December, however — with comparatively few ships. But SXM already has more to offer than was expected at this point — far more — so ships are coming back faster than expected. Increasing numbers of cruise ships should be expected through the winter and that will have to serve the island's economy for a while. Some timeshares are coming back near the first of the year (see our story in this issue), but most won't be back online until the spring — when tourist traffic normally starts dropping off.

An interesting point here is that SXM has suddenly become more similar to what it was physically 30 years ago rather than what it was before Irma.

Virtually all the beach bars and restaurants that were on Orient beach have disappeared. In their place, there is a very wide, beautiful beach from which virtually all debris has already been removed. If you review pictures of it on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), the image you'll see will be just like the beach was in the late 1970s before development began.

This means, of course, that there are virtually no beach bars, restaurants, or even chair rentals; bring a blanket and snacks and something to drink, and don't expect a lot of company. When we first visited Orient during the winter of 1978, the entire beach had perhaps a few dozen people on it. By contrast, average winter days over the last several years have seen a few thousand people on Orient.

Many people like it as it was 30+ years ago — and as it is right now. See story 23.

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## 21. Why More Planes Aren't Yet Flying to SXM

Airlines fly their planes on routes that offer the opportunity for full flights. Since St. Maarten offers thousands fewer beds for stayover tourists now than usual, airlines believe they have no reason to fly full traditional schedules to SXM. The demand can't exist because there's no place for many of these people to go.

Of course, there is demand from St. Maarten loyalists. But many long-time St. Maarten travelers own timesharing or rent out condos at timeshare resorts when they come to SXM — and most timeshares will be closed for at least the next few months.

It's a vicious circle. Describe it anyway you like, but it's bad for St. Maarten's economy and it gives shivers, literally, to people who won't go anywhere else and who are staying home in the frigid North this winter.

Although the demand is less now, there are plenty of places to stay, more than adequately covering that demand. Please see stories 11 and 12.

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## 22. Travel Writer's Impressions of SXM Airport Now

Susan Campbell is a seasoned, highly accomplished travel writer. She spends much of her time traveling the world and writing about it, though she spends a plurality of her time in the Caribbean. If you read travel reviews, it's highly likely that you've read some of Susan Campbell's writing without knowing it. Here it is:

"As a long time visitor and senior writer for *St. Maarten Nights* magazine, I was closely following everything Irma on the island, and was slated to fly through there en route to Saba for quite some time. But as the devastation unfolded, and the airport was ravaged I wondered if I would have to find another route. But when the airport reopened so quickly, I was curious as to the kind of experience it would be, and I'm happy to report it was very pleasant indeed considering the circumstances.

"Upon flying in, the water looks as enchantingly inviting as ever, but you do begin to notice tell-tale signs of the storm -- the bright blue tarps pop against the checkerboard landscape from above, and the little planes still lying totally upside down along the runway are your first clues. And when I saw the state of Mary's Boon, I almost cried. But upon disembarking I began to feel a different, actually positive, energy.

"It began with an airport worker bounding up the stairs of my Delta plane to help me with my bags when he saw I was struggling with my carry-ons getting tangled in the rope. He simply grabbed them and smiled and ran down to wait for me. That NEVER happened before, and I was grateful.

"Then we passed through customs in less than a minute. There is one desk and one window, they asked few questions and then, I was off. I had a fairly long layover so decided to leave the airport and look around before circling back to the entrance, wherever that was located now.

"Taxi drivers were lined up eagerly waiting for customers and were most helpful in guiding me back to where I would check in for my next flight to Saba via Winair. Rolling my bags around the corner I began to see some aftermath -- not so much of the island, construction crews were busy on the surrounding land -- but of the airport itself, starting with the sign. Then suddenly, it began to pour.

"I took shelter in a covered corner where one of the doors to the entrance used to be and peered inside, what a mess... and it was leaking like a sieve. I waited for the rain to subside along with workers who were stopped in their tracks because of the rain, but they were surprisingly upbeat. As I waited, it occurred to me though this was a short inconvenience for me, these folks probably had no power or maybe roofs, or even houses to return to, yet were bent on helping me out. It was a reality check.

"Once the rain stopped and I rounded the corner, I spied a bunch of white tents, not looking as I had imagined as a refugee camp for travelers, but more a Kiwanis tent set up at a town fair. And again, those waiting for passengers to approach were surprising cheerful and helpful. Checking in was a breeze, there are a few pop-up counters under another large tent, and security was far faster than I had ever encountered when the airport was all snazzy. It was very well organized.

"On the way to security there is a big market café set up and a pop-up store for sundries and duty-free smokes, but by now I was seeking a washroom. I imagined I would have to go outside to some kind of "porta-potty" installation, but no, inside there are four bathrooms with running water, well kept and well stocked.

"Yes, it was hot without air-conditioning, but there are plenty of giant fans you can position yourself in front of while you wait to board at one of the two gates open. But don't wait there; keep walking behind a makeshift wall to find a surprising little village of offerings. There is a bistro style take out, a Relay store, a small duty-free and even ice cream and Domino's pizza set ups. But best of all, there is a bar!

"Taloula's Flight Bar (an offshoot of the famous anchor bars on the boardwalk -- The Blue Bitch Bar and Taloula Mango's) has a very comfortable pop-up set up with lots of tables around it and big fans pointed at customers. And though you cannot order complicated tropical cocktails like Pina Coladas, you can enjoy ice-cold beer and basics like rum and coke etc. And their bartender Trudy Witter is a delight- a true ray of tropical sunshine. The bar was packed with travelers, all with their own St. Maarten stories and connections to share, and before I knew it was time to board. There and back, all went so very smoothly, it was not a challenge at all. So don't be shy to travel to or through SXM Princess Juliana Airport right now. It might be badly bruised, but definitely not broken. #SXMStrong.

"NOTE: Cash only at all airport kiosks, they cannot accept cards anywhere. There is no ATM either.

-- Susan Campbell

We thank Susan for making this available to our *SXM Weekly News* readers.

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## 23. The Changing Face of Grand Case and Orient Beach

A year from now, both Orient beach and Grand Case could look significantly different than they did either before or after Irma.

Long unenforced seaside zoning regulations will affect apartments on the beach and restaurants over the water in Grand Case. Sources with knowledge of the regulations tell us that neither private apartments nor condominiums will be allowed on the water side of Boulevard de Grand Case. Consequently, one Grand Case restaurateur tells us, you're likely to see a number of new restaurants in Grand Case along the water. Before or after Irma, some restaurateurs concluded that enough was enough and they left the country. But there will be new building — with restrictions — and the face of Grand Case will inevitably be different. As we said recently, not better ... not worse ... simply different.

The Reserve Naturelle, which controls Orient Beach and a very large part of the surrounding area, isn't fond of all of the development that has happened on the beach and in other locations in recent years. It has already said that it wants what it calls collapsible structures on the beach which can be taken down and carted away quickly before any major storm hits, sort of like tradeshow booths.

There is certainly a demand for services on the beach — chair rentals, bars, restaurants, and public bathrooms. So there will be a need for vendors in these proposed "collapsible" buildings to be located on the beach. The biggest obstacle to rebuilding in both Grand Case and on Orient Beach now is not the insurance companies, it's the French Side government.

So, significant changes coming to both areas and as always, we'll keep you posted.

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## 24. Visiting Toddler Killed in Freak Accident

Very young children like to run. But in St. Maarten like anywhere else, they can easily run into trouble.

That's exactly what happened when the young child of people visiting the island ran into a Simpson Bay parking lot...Here are the [details](#).

Our most profound sympathies go to the family.

Please see the following stories.

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## 25. Thanksgiving in SXM

Usually Thanksgiving week is one of the busiest weeks of the year on SXM.

Not so this year. With somewhere near 90% of the island's overnight accommodations unavailable thanks to Irma, there are comparatively few visitors on the island. Beyond that, some people simply want to be with their families this week and not in a restaurant with a lot of strangers. So, they're staying home on SXM and having a quiet dinner with those they love.

There are places on the island serving traditional Thanksgiving dinners, as always. If you are on SXM and want to enjoy Thanksgiving, check the local papers for ads; do call and make reservations.

Toppers has been our place to go for many years.



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## 26. A Series of SXM Travel Disasters

Not every trip to SXM winds up the relaxing event you'd expect.

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

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cole Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw.

The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

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

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

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in just about all these cases. SkyMed took its members home in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.

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

Anything can happen. Do it today. To learn more, visit [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com). JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular multiyear membership pricing: see next story.

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## 27. Traveling for Thanksgiving or after? 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](http://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](http://www.getskymed.com) or by phone at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only)...forward your approval letter from SkyMed to [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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.

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## 28. 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](http://www.getskymed.com).

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## 29. 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](mailto: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](#).

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### 30. 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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml)

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

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### 31. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml). Most issues for the past few years are now online.

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

[Click to access our recommended real estate 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](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](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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To change your email address, visit [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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.*

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## 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

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