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Vol. 2, #1128 --- 11/28/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book

to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

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



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.

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29 news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete [Table of Contents](#)

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 1/13/2018 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

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

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.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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====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. Finally, Hurricane Season 2017 Ends Thursday

The 2017 hurricane season is essentially over. In its latest tropical outlooks, the National Hurricane Center has said that tropical storm formation is not expected in the next five days, which means that the season is almost actually finally over.

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 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](#).

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

Major updates to the Weather section of our everythingSXM.com website were completed during this busy hurricane season.

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 everythingxm.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. It gave live updates on Island 92 radio as Irma approached, warning of potentially catastrophic winds from the storm.

As we've said before, if you are in the path of an imminent 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. Villas for Rent; Lots Coming Online 12/15

Both sides of the island are expected to have somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 villas available for rent starting in mid December. Many villas had rather minor damage from hurricane Irma and have been under repair over the last couple of months. The objective as always been to have them available for rental starting in mid December, and now that's happening.

Villas offer accommodations for several couples or for families at reasonable rates. If you and friends are unable to visit SXM because your timeshare is closed, check [our Villa page](#) — it might just be the solution to your problem.

6. Timeshare Rental Listings Updated

With several timeshares coming online soon — first Sapphire Beach Resort and Atrium Resort early in 2018, timeshare owners are now posting units available for rent on our timeshare rental site on everythingSXM.com.

Other news about timeshares coming back in service is percolating. See story 29 for the interesting details.

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 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

CYBER MONDAY --

CONTINUES OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR --

BUT IT ENDS MONDAY NIGHT 11/27 AT 9PM PST

-- WHICH IS EXACTLY WHEN OUR HOLIDAY SALE BEGINS

UNHEARDOF PRICING CONTINUES!

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

Please Join, Renew, or Reinstate Now:

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

Pricing Ends Monday Night 11/27 at 9pm PST

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

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

Pricing Ends Monday Night 11/27 at 9pm PST

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

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

Pricing Ends Monday Night 11/27 at 9pm PST

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

This Year's Web-Buster Prices Won't Be Back

Your Support enables us:

-- To continue to enhance the
SXM discounts we offer you through
JMB Website Supporters membership;

- To keep **SXM Weekly News** useful, thorough, and free;
- To give away SXM vacations;
- To deliver tons of SXM info through everything.sxm.com, our **Everything SXM Facebook Site**, and right here in **Weekly News**.

8. Flights / Accommodations Overview: It's Complicated

As you saw in section 2 of this week's *SXM Weekly News*, there are lots of accommodations available for determined people — it just takes some persistence and some ingenuity to put things together.

Airlines have been reticent to restore normal passenger service to SXM when thousands of timeshare units, the island's main source of accommodations, have been off-line. However, as you'll see in story 29, it appears to us as though many of those units may be back online sooner than expected. See story 29 for why.

It may be that airlines will wind up making sudden changes in their schedules — kind of like they do during winter storms — when they find more accommodations will be available in SXM faster than imagined.

Put simply, airlines aren't going to send planes to places where they are not likely to be filled. Heads up to airlines: keep a closer eye on SXM because things may well be changing faster than you think.

9. Is This a Good Time to Buy a Timeshare?

We're seeing this question posted repeatedly on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Some people are assuming that it makes sense to buy a timeshare while the island is fighting to pick itself up, dust itself off, and get going again.

If you're considering buying generally, or if you're looking at a specific resort, we urge you to post your question on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Be sure to mention the specific resort you're thinking of, if there is one. You may find interesting reactions based upon the date when the resort will reopen (if it will reopen); its reputation; its annual maintenance fees; the confidence of timeshare owners in its management staff and ownership; and its history concerning Supplemental Maintenance Fees when hurricanes hit.

Our readership on the [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) is approaching 19,000 people, many of whom are timeshare owners on the island. You'll get truthful, highly useful answers to your questions from the people most in a position to answer. We urge you to use this resource.

10. Emilio's Restaurant Opens at Emilio Wilson Estate

If you think of the name Emilio's in conjunction with a restaurant, you might think, "Oh great, another Italian place is coming to SXM."

If you made that assumption, you'd be wrong. SXM has a number of great Italian restaurants, but this restaurant isn't Italian; it's simply great food by a phenomenal chef in a beautiful ambience at a great new location.

Although the development of part of the Emilio Wilson estate -- an environmental treasure for decades -- by Rainforest Adventures has been highly controversial, there are two key bottom lines here: first, the development has not taken over a huge portion of the property or desecrated it, and second, it represents a huge attraction for tourists at a time when the island desperately needs it.

Like it or not, the timing of the entire Rainforest Adventures project really couldn't be better for the island economy.

Beyond that, the management of this restaurant also could not possibly be better. Leading a highly experienced team are Norman and Su Wathey. Su is a highly accomplished business manager (and baker), and Norman has been the principal architect of Kangaroo Court a number of years ago and Taloula Mango's more recently, two highly successful Philipsburg restaurants. Although this is their operation, Irma stepped in and destroyed renowned CIA chef Dino Jagtiani's landmark SXM restaurant, Temptation in Cupecoy, leaving him suddenly no place to ply his extraordinary talents.

Then, the idea struck and soon, Dino was in charge of all the culinary direction and details for this rather extraordinary new restaurant.

This match was made in heaven -- literally.

If you head North from Simpson Bay to Le Grand Marché near Philipsburg, you'll find Rainforest Adventures by going straight ahead toward the hills — northward — instead of turning right toward Burger King, Cost-u-Less, and Philipsburg. Rainforest Adventures will be on your left a bit after the stadium and that's where you will find Emilio's, named for Emilio Wilson on whose estate it is located.

A grand opening of sorts was held this past week and the reports were all outstanding. Definitely give it a try when you next visit SXM.

11. Norwegian Caribbean 50s Cruise Coming in March

We had received word that Norwegian Caribbean Cruise Lines (NCCL) would have a 1950s celebrity music cruise coming to SXM in March, 2018, and forwarded an immediate inquiry to Norwegian Caribbean to get details.

Unfortunately, they didn't respond before press time. If you're interested in pursuing this, contact Norwegian Caribbean.

12. The Difference Between Irma and Ordinary Hurricanes

Unless you've been through a major category five hurricane, there is no way to describe the difference between what happened in SXM and "ordinary" hurricanes.

Even 1995's hurricane Luis was "ordinary" compared to Irma's devastation. Irma hit SXM on the 22nd anniversary of Luis.

The only way we can describe Irma is with relation to an automobile accident. Ordinary hurricanes are bumper thumpers -- memorable and a bit scary at the time, but in the long-term scheme of things not really cataclysmic.

By comparison, category five storm Irma was pretty much the same as you driving a subcompact and getting slammed head-on or broadside by a fully loaded 18 wheeler and having your car totally destroyed and your life pass before your eyes — a totally different animal.

As a consequence of that very real difference, it may be some time before locals who actually lived through this life-changing catastrophic event to feel comfortable about expressing what happened to them personally. It was recent, it was devastating, and it absolutely was cataclysmic.

Give them time.

13. Big, All-New SkyMed Double Bonus Available Thru 12/31

Buying a new annual or multiyear SkyMed medical evacuation membership, or upgrading an annual membership to a multiyear Ultimate? This news will make you happy that you waited:

An all new SkyMed double bonus is available through www.getskymed.com or by calling Jeff when you buy a new SkyMed membership from us -- or upgrade to a multiyear SkyMed membership from an annual membership you bought from us.

But, what is SkyMed? Scottsdale Arizona based SkyMed International takes its members home when they become critically ill or injured while traveling. Basic "Takes You Home" memberships cover you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global memberships (provided by SkyMed affiliate GETS) cover you in the rest of the world with a few exceptions — like Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, North Korea and possibly a few others. As you understand, that list may change as world events unfold.

The Double SkyMed bonus is simple. Once you've bought or upgraded your SkyMed membership through us, you forward to us by email your SkyMed acceptance email. Once we verify it, we extend your JMB Website Supporters membership by the same number of years as you purchased coverage from SkyMed. Now, with the double SkyMed bonus, we will *also* give you a certificate good for a \$25 discount on a future JMB Website Supporters membership renewal. The certificate is valid for two years from the date of issue. That's in addition to the years extension: That's quite a double bonus.

The double bonus offer comes only with SkyMed memberships purchased from us from now through 12/31/17.

SkyMed medical evacuations take you home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust — where your health insurance works. You call SkyMed, and SkyMed makes all the arrangements. There are no deductibles, no claim forms, and no reimbursements since SkyMed pays for all the arrangements it makes.

Without SkyMed, if you or a covered loved one needs a medical evacuation, you must make the arrangements yourself in the middle of an emergency and you must pay for everything upfront in cash — ambulances, aircraft, flight crew, jet fuel, medical personnel, etc. With SkyMed, by contrast, SkyMed makes all the arrangements and you pay \$0 for the evacuation. SkyMed *Takes You Home*® — what else matters?

For more information, see www.getskymed.com or contact Jeff any business day Eastern time at 508-747-8281 (fastest) or email him at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Include your return telephone number and time zone. He'll be happy to answer your questions and can even take an application by phone.

14. "One Love" Store Back To Life on French Side

If you've been on the island over the last few years, you've seen them and bought them by the thousands — T-shirts and other items with the "One Love" script about St. Maarten/St. Martin. Originally located in a cluster of stores on the northern third of Orient beach, their store was washed away by hurricane Irma.

All is not lost, however; the store has now relocated to a large shipping container near the Al Dente restaurant, just east of the traffic circle leading to the Pinel island ferry. We don't believe they currently take orders to be shipped, which means if you want a One Love shirt or anything else scripted with their theme, you'll just have to get down to the island.

15. Get 2018 St. Maarten Calendars - & Benefit SXM

Gorgeous 2018 scenic calendars which will benefit SXM are available for a limited time from Heather, as we mentioned here before.

Here are the details:

"As you start thinking about your holiday shopping, remember that we have a fundraiser going on over at

<https://www.createphotocalendars.com/Shop/collectingpreciousmemories> to raise money for K1 Britannia.

"So far, through this fundraiser and your generosity, we have been able to raise almost \$550 for this foundation. They are hard at work on the island with recovery, rebuilding, and providing support to the foster population and at-risk youth. If you would like to add financial assistance, please check out the link above and purchase a calendar, a photo notebook, or a one-page "at a glance" calendar.

"This fundraiser will continue through December 31, 2017. At that point, we will partner with another organization working on the island in order to continue to give back to an island that has given us so much.

"Will you consider helping us? If you would like to share this post on your personal Facebook page, I will post a shareable link in the comments. Thank you all for continuing to support this fundraiser."

16. For All US / Canadian ExPats Living on SXM...

As a US/Canadian ex-pat living on SXM at least six months per year, you understand the need to get home where your US or Canadian health insurance works if you become critically ill or injured while living on SXM. That's exactly what SkyMed ex-pat coverage does; it covers the ambulance from the local hospital to the airport, the medical evacuation flight home, and the ambulance at the arrival airport that takes you to the hospital, to which SkyMed has transferred your record; waiting there is a bed for you; and a team that has your medical records and is prepared to start working with you.

Don't take chances about being able to get home in a hurry in case of a serious personal medical emergency. SkyMed takes you home. What else matters? Read about the double SkyMed bonus in effect from now until the end of December in article 13, then see www.getskymed.com or call Jeff at 508-747-8281 during normal East Coast business hours.

Do it soon — [the double SKYMED bonus will end December 31, 2017.](#)

17. 110% Guarantee Worldwide on Hotel, Car Rental Pricing

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*.

See details in this issue, story #4.

18. King, Queen, Sec'y of State Due This Thursday

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. Despite the fact that fewer cars than usual are on the roads, security will necessitate slower than usual traffic wherever the Royals are.

The relationship between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Country St. Maarten is on the mend after it had been battered by former Prime Minister William Marlin who had held up Kingdom aid money while people were suffering because he wanted to receive it unconditionally. The Kingdom of the Netherlands, however, wanted a proper accounting of how the money was spent — a totally sensible request.

Marlin's coalition majority soon disappeared, a no-confidence vote was passed and he was relieved of his position as prime minister recently. We reported last week about the new prime minister.

Our sense of this visit is that it will enable the King and Queen to see how relief money and material already deployed by the Kingdom is working on the island, and to reaffirm already arranged continued assistance programs totaling hundreds of millions of dollars.

Total damages from Irma on the Dutch and French side is now widely expected to approach USD\$6-billion. For the most part, electricity, running water, and even Internet has been restored, though thousands of people are still unable to occupy damaged or destroyed homes and are living with friends or relatives.

Progress is noticeable but so is devastation. There's no magic wand except tourist dollars....

19. Viking Cruise Ship Due Sat. 12/4; Royal Caribbean Due 12/17

Cruise ships start to return to SXM late this week.

Viking cruises will kick off the post-hurricane cruise ship season on the island next Monday, 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 updated story in this issue), but others won't be back online until the spring — when tourist traffic normally drops off.

20. Unexpected SXM Travel Diversions

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, the major sponsor of this newsletter. 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. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular multiyear membership pricing: see next story.

21. Traveling Anywhere Soon? 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: See info on the all-new SkyMed Bonus in story # 13 in this issue.

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

22. 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.

23. Buy SkyMed for Your Traveling Parents, But You Get The Bonuses...

Got aging parents who travel? There's no age limit to apply for SkyMed medical evacuation protection. For your peace of mind as well as theirs, this holiday season get them SkyMed protection. When you do, if you like we'll

give you the double SkyMed bonuses described in story 13. Good for them. Good for you.

Got questions? Call Jeff at 508-747-8281. We'll tell you how we can help make it happen.

24. Christmas in the Caribbean

Like [Jimmy Buffett](#) says, it has everything but snow. Trees, even.

25. Owners of Celine Too, Random Wind, & Passaat Getting New Boats

Great news came this week as owners of three of SXM's most popular tour boats told us they've already bought or will soon be getting new boats. Irma had sunk all three of their boats.

Neil Roebert has bought and is already working on his new boat, a Lagoon 620 sailing catamaran as big as Celine Too. (Google Lagoon 620 -- it's quite a boat.)

Mirian Ebbers, owner of the Classic Schooner Passaat, we're told has bought a new boat but is not yet releasing any details.

And Diane Morano Smith, Random Wind, is searching to buy a new boat. All good news ... More to come.

26. 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](#).

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In business since the web began --

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27. 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 at least 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....

28. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

29. Which Timeshares Will Reopen First?

It's very interesting to peer behind the announcements from SXM's top timeshares and see what they're actually doing. *Our strong hunch is that the philosophy at the best managed timeshare resorts is underpromise and over-deliver.*

What many have said is that they're seeking an opening date of April, 2018, or later. But we believe several are truly -- and quietly -- trying to beat that.

The reason is simple business. Get it done, get it open, and you can get it filled and get revenue. As airlines see resorts reopen, they'll increase flight frequencies and pent-up demand for travel to SXM will fill available accommodations.

Some won't reopen at all; Summit Resort, built back in the early 70s of wood, was destroyed by Irma and won't reopen. Ocean Club suffered severe damage and is one of several apparently similarly damaged resorts under the same ownership throughout the Caribbean. It will need to be rebuilt and that will take time, especially if the

rebuilding is strong poured cement construction.

Atrium Resort was damaged but not severely and is already renting rooms to craftspeople involved in reconstruction and to some others. Simpson Bay Resort is working hard at rebuilding though its insurance folks haven't finished their analyses; it's a big campus. Run by timeshare experts and shrewd business people, it had just finished a \$36-million renovation when Irma hit. It has been occupied by hundreds of Dutch Marines and by some employees who had lost their homes. Its focus is its main structures. It is taking some reservations now though more amenities will be ready if you wait a bit before reserving. *It could, we think, be one of the first to partially reopen.*

Oyster Bay Beach Resort suffered major damage to its low-floor ocean-facing units especially and has said its reopening will be "phased." We think parts of OBBR could be ready early as well.

Both Sapphire Beach Resort and The Atrium are well built and capably managed and they're expected to be the first two timeshares to officially reopen, not long after the first of the year. Yes they had damages, but not as severe as many others.

Flamingo and Royal Palm Beach, both Diamond Resorts operations, are saying they'll reopen by 2020 which is absurd. Perhaps they want timeshare owners to walk away so they can essentially build new and sell at inflated "new" prices. Both were hit hard, but 2020 is a bizarre statement even for Diamond (Google them).

Royal Islander / Ocean Point was hit hard on lower floors but some upper floor units weren't as bad, according to some who have seen the buildings. Sonesta Maho appears to have previously installed windows not rated to withstand category 5 hurricane winds; many blew out during Irma.

We've not heard much yet about Divi Little Bay. In the case of Divi, employees are not at all happy about their situation; in press reports they allege the resort wants them to settle for two days/week pay. Divi has been accommodating Dutch Marines but we've heard little from them about the readiness of timeshare rooms.

Bel Air Resort is very well managed and, we think, is quietly marching to open early. We're constantly impressed by organizations that tell you what they're doing by actually doing it -- walking the walk -- and Bel Air we think, especially now, has truly become such a company. Don't be surprised to see them be ready early: we're watching them closely, too....

Dawn Beach Club may be ready next Summer or so but whether people will come with the Westin still closed is a complete unknown. Except for Infinity at Oyster Bay Beach Resort, very few area restaurants are open. Big Fish, Daniel's by the Sea, Busby's, and Canoa are all closed and none is expected to reopen any time soon. We'll watch this closely for you too.

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[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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsexm.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; 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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<http://www.everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com .

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