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Vol. 2, #1138 --- February 5, 2018
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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored 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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30 news stories this week

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/10/2018 2/17/2018 Week 6 Atrium Resort and Spa One bedroom with full spectacular ocean view with large deck. On quiet beach within walking distance to grocery store and many great restaurants. \$1,100 per week John (810) 694-1607 johnld47@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/24/2018 3/10/2018 Week 8 and Week 9 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Studio sleeps 4, totally renovated, beautiful view of Marina Pool, Carrabian and entrance to Simpson Bay Lagoon, pictures available on request, one king bed, one queen murphy bed. Very convenient. Many great restaurants on resort and with in walking distance. 7 pools, gym, play yard, 5000.00 per week John 401-965-2682 jnicolace@aol.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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- 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. Strike Authorized by Workers at Boston Logan Airport

If you're planning to fly into or out of Boston Logan Airport during the next week or two, keep an eye on news about a strike there.

FSS, a subcontractor providing baggage handling, wheelchair assistance, and other personnel to several carriers including JetBlue, claims its employees have taken a strike vote to protest against alleged intimidation in retaliation for attempts at union organization. The employees were set to vote on a strike date but at press time late Sunday, we had heard nothing more about whether the vote occurred or what its results were.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh publicly supported the workers. A former labor official, Walsh said to the potential strikers, "It's important to you to understand that we stand with you." Other politicians shared support for the prospective strikers.

FSS did not answer our calls requesting additional information. We will post any interim updates we receive about this on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). Here's more [on the situation](#).

2. WestJet Returns to SXM In April

A couple of months ago, it appeared unlikely that Canadian carrier WestJet would resume flights to SXM much before the end of this year.

But the island's remarkable recovery from hurricane Irma has resulted in demand increases, and hundreds of additional hotel and timeshare units are expected to come back online in the next few months, particularly in April.

Consequently, WestJet will resume weekly passenger service to SXM starting in April. There has been no word yet on when the airline might resume daily service to SXM. We know also that a number of passengers from various Canadian provinces are eyeing JFK as a point of embarkation since JetBlue now flies to SXM daily from JFK.

Here's [more](#).

3. Snakes, Spiders, Pigs, and Peacocks as Service Animals

A week ago, we wrote about an airline passenger who attempted to board a flight carrying her pet peacock, which she claimed was a service animal. That same story was later covered in many national news broadcasts.

We also reported last week about airlines finally putting their collective foot down in response to widespread abuse of prior airline service animal policies.

Service animals used to be limited to dogs for the blind. Other people claimed they needed dogs as comfort for the emotional trauma of flying. Airlines allowed that, but over the years abuse has skyrocketed, with many using the program as a crutch to take family pets aboard airplanes.

Among "comfort" animals have been large snakes, large spiders, and even small pigs, among others. Now airlines are reacting en masse, requiring written proof in advance of the need for service animals as well as proof that the service animals really are service animals and not just pets with fake documents.

We won't get into the politics of this, but in our opinion the sooner this abusive practice ends, the better. We'll keep you posted.

4. Cold Snap Sends Temps Plunging; Scattered Sweaters Seen

Nighttime temperatures during the last several days plunged to an unseasonably cold low 70s, sparking the appearance of heavy winter hats, coats, sweaters, and increased demand for hot coffee.

We admit that we enjoy writing an article like this once every winter but the fact is that this stuff actually happens. A few times last week, locals and even some tourists actually felt cold at night in open-air restaurants. Temp was low 70s but there was "windchill."

When you're used to 80s during the day and mid to upper 70s at night, a windy evening with temperatures in the low 70s does feel cold, and that's what happened during several recent days on SXM. A record low in the high 60s was also reported on a neighboring island — that's many degrees lower than current ocean temperatures, which continue to be higher than normal.

5. Current SXM Weather Info

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. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM 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.*

6. For You: ***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.

7. SXM Timeshare Condo & Villa Rentals

With several timeshare resorts coming back online — Sea Palace, Sapphire Beach Resort, and Atrium Resort, with others to follow -- timeshare owners are now posting units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on everythingSXM.com and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on everythingSXM.com. Check them out.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

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

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

We now offer about 300 discounts (including some 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 restart rolling 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

Now!
Huge Sale on Five-Year
SkyMed Ultimate
Medical Evacuation Memberships!
Their best and lowest daily cost!

**Buy or Upgrade to a new Five-Year SkyMed
Membership Through Us (their Best Membership
at their Lowest Price) & Get 10 Years
of membership in JMB Website Supporters
w/ About 300 SXM Discounts
as our Huge Valentine's Day Bonus!**

Plus you can get a 10-year
price guarantee on SkyMed!

Applies only to new or upgraded
Five-Year Ultimate memberships
bought directly through us
(including the original SkyMed purchase).
New purchases or upgrades must be
purchased from 2/5/18

through 2/16/18.
Not combinable with any other offer.
Available exclusively through us.
Offer ends Friday 2/16/18.
For details, contact
Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281
or email Jeff.Berger@skymed.com
with the Subject "SkyMed."
Do it now...
this offer disappears quickly.

9. Lee Says No To Eviction, But...

Fighting the eviction and permanent closure of his Lee's Roadside Grill at its current location near the Simpson Bay drawbridge, Lee Halley put up the good fight — but ultimately lost.

Last week, as dozens of employees and supporters stood near, people sent by his landlord began to demolish his landmark restaurant, which had served loyal patrons for decades.

Lee's Roadside Grill is dead. Long live Lee's Roadside Grill...

What makes this interesting is the fact that Lee's is going to come back. Lee has made that obvious now (though we reported on in a few weeks ago here). His page on Facebook for the restaurant over the weekend said: "We are going because we are being forced to not because we want to but *we will resurface stronger and better.*"

As always, we'll keep you posted.

10. Another Dump Fire -- But This One is Different

It started before the Super Bowl began on Sunday night: yet another dump fire.

But this time, it was different. It wasn't in the regular dump at pond island near Philipsburg, in a mountain of trash there. Rather, it was next door in a huge field of hurricane debris, reportedly including cars, building materials, and other hazardous waste. The government dispatched fire crews quickly, but on Monday they were still battling the flames and acrid smoke. The government building was ordered closed, as was the University of St. Maarten, numerous nearby businesses, and schools throughout the Dutch side were ordered closed. Residents in nearby areas were told to shelter in place to avoid exposure to the noxious smoke. Even at Pelican Key in Simpson Bay there was quite a bit of smoke.

In the past, various governments on the Dutch side of the island said they have tried to figure out how to solve this, but obviously none succeeded. Hopefully that will change. There was some word of a trash to energy plant last year before Irma, but whether there has been any material progress is unclear.

We'll be updating this story on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

11. *New York Times* Features SXM Twice

During the last couple of weeks, SXM has been featured twice in *The New York Times* — both major articles. The first was [here](#) — in an article about the island's recovery from hurricane Irma. The article was generally positive about how the island has already recovered from Irma. There was also some negative information — a dose of reality

about the fact that there is still widespread damage from the storm, even as recovery and rebuilding efforts are shifting into high gear now that insurance payments are starting to be received.

The second story was *52 Places to Visit in 2018*; you can see it [here](#). Quite remarkable that SXM made the cut so quickly after being ravaged by Irma -- stark testimony to the island's resilience.

12. La Samanna Employees Fear Closing, Mass Layoffs

The Belmond La Samanna Resort is closed thanks to Irma, and Belmond is focused on restoring its Anguilla property first. So it appears that La Samanna is on the verge of laying off virtually its entire SXM staff. Employees fear the worst, for good reason. Here's the [full story](#).

13. Toppers Rhum Appears Twice in Love & Hip Hop NY - Both 1/29 & This Week

VH1's series Love and Hip-Hop New York was particularly interesting on January 29 because the show's leads talked a lot about St. Maarten and the need to go back to the island and help its people. The talk pervaded the first half of the show and at the halfway point, several cast members were at a rented villa on the island. On the counter and in the refrigerator were many bottles of Toppers Rhum -- they talked about how good it is and there was even a close-up of the bottle at one point. Talk about great product placement -- this was a textbook example.

And Melanie Daboul, who heads the Rhum Factory, told us Toppers is featured again tonight (Monday night) on the show.

Next time you go to Toppers in Simpson Bay, stop in and buy yourself some lunch or dinner and some rum/rhum (rhum is the French spelling). It's great stuff and it's reasonably priced.

14. Rum and Peas Reopening Delayed

Sherman Maarten's Rum and Peas restaurant in Simpson Bay, which quickly became iconic after opening last year, was scheduled to reopen at the beginning of this month. Unfortunately, work on its roof wasn't finished in time so the restaurant hasn't yet reopened but will soon; we'll let you know when.

We'll also let you know who's new on the staff. Hint: She's someone you might very well know already -- from Busby's / Daniels's by the Sea. .

Not far away, Jimbo's just reopened as well. The island is getting its culinary personality back...

15. Vesna Taverna Now Open Standard Winter Hours

Vesna's hours: Breakfast and Lunch, seven days a week, starting early; Dinner, Tuesday through Saturday. Updated, new menu will be live [on their site](#) later this week. Vesna's is located in Simpson Bay on Airport Road about 125 yards north of the Drawbridge.

More news follows this message:

Mid Winter JMB Membership Sale Underway!

**Get About 300 SXM Discounts
& Many Other Benefits Through Our Exclusive
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**

**Join, Renew, or Reinstate:
Sale Now Underway!**

New JMB memberships: One year \$39; Two, \$59; Our Best Offer: Four Years just \$99

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

Renewal JMB memberships: One year, \$35; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$99

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

One year, \$35; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$99

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

**In Addition To Those 300 Discounts
& Other Benefits,
Your JMB Membership
helps keep**

***SXM Weekly News*
Publishing for You Every Week!**

Please Join Today!

16. Random Wind Hits The Water 2/17

Random Wind's new boat — interestingly enough to be called Random Wind — takes to the water this month, most

likely on February 17. For more information, see www.randomwind.com.

17. Neil Roebert's New Boat Closing in on Being Ready

Neil Roebert's new boat — not yet named — is now going through its final modifications in preparation for its official launch. As most *SXM Weekly News* readers know, his Celine Too Motoryacht was torn in half by hurricane Irma, even though it was docked securely in Simpson Bay lagoon.

We'll post more here in *SXM Weekly News* and on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) as soon as we hear when the new boat officially starts service. It's close.

18. Is Simpson Bay Lagoon an Ancient Volcano Crater?

Island folklore that we've heard over the years says that Simpson Bay lagoon is actually the crater of an ancient, long extinct volcano.

That always struck us as odd, since prevailing winds generally come from the east, southeast, or occasionally Northeast, which would place debris from an eruption differently than the current layout of the island. So, we asked island archaeologist Dr. Jay Haviser what the real facts are. Here's what he said:

"SXM and Anguilla-St Barths rest atop an ancient platform that rose from the sea about 40M yrs ago, as originally one island. The Lagoon area is a valley system submerged by sea-level rise about 16K yrs ago. [The sea level rise] separated the three islands. Thus the lagoon is created from a submerged valley, rather than a volcano eruption crater."

19. Is Geothermal Caribbean's Energy Solution?

Very interesting story [here](#), though burning trash in a trash-to-energy plant has been considered SXM's solution to its Trash Mountain / dump fires issues. Better it be hauled away and perhaps be incinerated elsewhere, or transformed into useful things? We'll stay on this.

20. JMB Throws a Members Bash in SXM; More to Come

This week we're throwing a big party/meet up on SXM with 50 JMB Website Supporters members, a few folks from our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), and some ex-pats who are also members of JMB attending.

We're not going to say where the party is because it's sold out and there's no room for walk-ins. But we will soon be posting pictures on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) thanks to a semi retired US professional photographer who will shoot them for us. The party is on the French side's at one of the island's top restaurants. And yes, we plan to have more parties going forward, most exclusively for our JMB Website Supporters members.

If you're still not a member, see the note about our JMB membership sale just after story 15. The sale gives you hundreds of discounts across the island and helps support continuing island coverage here in *SXM Weekly News*, our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), our vacation giveaways, and [the coming expansion of our discount program](#), [JMB Website Supporters](#) itself.

21. Sunsail / Moorings Reopens on French Side

This is [news of significance](#) for our increasing number of boaters among weekly news subscribers.

22. SkyMed "Double Bonus" Both Expanded & Extended

Under the SkyMed Double Bonus, we've been giving people who buy new SkyMed memberships through us -- duration one year or longer — and people who upgrade their current SkyMed memberships bought through us to longer memberships — a double bonus: we give them JMB Website Supporters membership extensions equal in length to what they had bought through us from SkyMed. In December, we also started giving \$25 gift certificates to these folks, good toward the purchase of a future JMB Website Supporters membership extension. That was our Double Bonus.

We originally were intending to end this promotion December 31 but instead we have expanded and extended it. Under the expansion, we now offer a triple bonus — including a new extra year of JMB membership in addition to what we already offered — again, for people who buy new SkyMed memberships through us with a duration of a year or more or who upgrade their current SkyMed memberships bought through us.

Bottom line, there has never been a better time to acquire SkyMed medical evacuation coverage through us. If you purchased a new SkyMed membership through us or upgraded your SkyMed membership through us in December, no worries: just send an email to Membership Services at support@JMBCommunications.com using the Subject "Triple Bonus" and ask them to give you an extra week (you must forward your December confirmation letter from SkyMed with your email).

Please contact Jeff to apply for SkyMed protection: 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). Or email him at jeff.berger@skymed.com or jeff@jmbcommunications.com. Do it now..... There is no age limit to apply for SkyMed.

23. This Is The Time To Get SkyMed Peace-of-Mind

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Exclusively for Americans and Canadians, basic SkyMed coverage protects you throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage (via Global Emergency Transport Services, or GETS) is standard on all "Ultimate" memberships and an inexpensive option on basic memberships.

Without SkyMed, you will have to pay upwards of \$35,000 to \$50,000 or possibly much more **in cash, in advance**, to set up an emergency medical evacuation home if you know who to call and what to ask in a huge emergency. But with SkyMed, you make one toll-free call to SkyMed 24/7/365 and SkyMed makes all the arrangements related to the medical evacuation and pays for all its services. No deductibles, no claim forms, no reimbursements necessary.

It's like fire insurance -- get it before you need it. Call Jeff at his office (Eastern Time, regular office hours) 508-747-8281 or email him at jeff@jmbcommunications.com and he'll be happy to answer all your questions.

New Triple Bonus Now in Effect but it could end soon, so do get SkyMed while the bonus lasts. Here's more:

Buying a new annual or multiyear SkyMed medical evacuation membership from us, or upgrading an annual membership to a multiyear Ultimate through us?

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

The new Triple 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. (Use the subject "SkyMed Bonus".) Once we verify it, we extend your JMB Website Supporters membership by the same number of years as you purchased coverage from SkyMed.

With the second part of the 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. (JMB renewals are always consecutive, never concurrent.)

The "Triple" Bonus? Yet another year of JMB membership on top of (in addition to) what you just read about.

See the other SkyMed stories in this issue for much more on SkyMed. Join now... this will not last very long.

24. Restaurant of the Week

Returns next week.

Here is a rundown of the status of all restaurants featured in the last year or so in our *Weekly News* restaurant column. Dates below are when each restaurant was last covered.

Celine Too Motor Yacht, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Sunk by Irma. Neil has bought a new sailing yacht as big as Celine Too was and is readying it to enter service soon. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 5/1/17). Big Fish has closed. We do not have any word on whether Mike and Teresa will be reopening.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 1/15/18) David is back and the restaurant has reopened. Now open for lunch as well.

Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 6/5/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/29/17) Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood casino in the middle of Simpson Bay Resort was one of the first restaurants to reopen soon after Irma struck, and it has been open ever since. It is now also fully enclosed and fully air conditioned - no street noise. Neat place.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/6/17) Avantika is open. SXM's best Thai.

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 4/10/17) Canoa has established a gofundme campaign to help it rebuild. We have no information on timing, but our guess is probably late 2018, or later.

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 1/29/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 7/17/17) Skipjack's main dining deck overlooking the lagoon was wrecked by Irma and is being rebuilt. They should be open late 2018.

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16). The Maho area was hit very badly by Irma and Pizza Pasta has closed and is not expected to reopen, not at that location anyway. Selena has moved to St. Kitts where her mom, Ilde, and dad, Dario, operate their Ciao restaurant.

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 8/14/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/30/17; added 1/17) La Patrona is open and has been for quite some time.

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 5/21/17) Recently reopened; new menu; redesigned; also now serving lunch. New name too: Cafe Spiga. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food.

The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16 Just got insurance settlement, not yet reopened.

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Opening in progress; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 1/15/18.

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14) Stone is permanently closed.

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15) Believed permanently closed and likely for sale. We'll post quickly if we hear anything else.

Temptation, <http://www.temptation-sxm.com/> (featured 7/5/17) Permanently closed. Dino has now relocated to Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, which will be featured here soon.

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 7/10/17) Open now for lunch and dinner.

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/26/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/19/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/31/17) Reopened.

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017) Reopened. Their sign blew away in Irma -- to Virgin Gorda's airport 192 miles away.

FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse Had closed permanently before Irma hit.

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Rebuilding, hopes to reopen soon.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 1/22/18). Reopened. Now open seven days / nights, B/L/D.

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/27/17) Reopened quickly.

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

Bylbos, Simpson Bay Not yet known.

Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 2/13/17)

Closed permanently; see next item. Pierre ("Pete") Ferland has opened a new Japanese Restaurant next to Pineapple Pete...

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great service.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate will be featured soon. It's the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

25. Our Thanks To You...

Many hundreds of you in November and December have written to us online and in letters to thank us for our extensive coverage of Irma here, on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site](#) (where we had more than 50,000 interactions with you following the storm), and for our help in answering thousands of phone calls from JMB members in the six weeks immediately after Irma struck.

From Jeff: *I've been a journalist / marketing writer since finishing college, working in radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines. **But your "thanks" messages mean far more to me than the cardboard box of awards we keep somewhere in the cellar.** It's great to know how you rely on us to keep you connected, and that you like what we're doing for you. We truly love doing it as much as you enjoy reading it.*

How You Can Help Us Make SXM Weekly News Even More Useful to Its Readers.

As seasoned journalists, we take great pride in *Weekly News*. We keep our eyes and ears open all week long and on every Friday, decide what's going into *Weekly News*. We write on Friday and Saturday morning, then send *Weekly News* on its way.

Here's how can you help us make **SXM Weekly News** even better -- three key ways:

1) When on the island, keep your eyes and ears open and let us know what you see that's of significant interest to our tourist audience. We might already have it ... then again we might not. (In some cases, what you give us will already have been covered in *Weekly News* -- but when you have a story idea, email it to jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Weekly News Idea." We welcome every idea.)

2) Spread the word about *Weekly News*. Let others know they can subscribe "free" anytime on our site, sxmweeklynews.com.

3) The crucial word is **free**. Quite frankly, we need your help -- now more than ever, thanks to Irma -- to be able to continue to research, write, and distribute **Weekly News** every week. It takes a lot of time to research and write **Weekly News**, and "bandwidth costs" for emailing 300,000+ copies weekly (and sometimes more often) does not come cheap.

There are several ways you can help; we'd be grateful no matter which you do:

- Contribute. Any contribution amount is very much appreciated. If you want to use PayPal, send it to jeff@jmbcommunications.com. Or send a check (payable to JMB Communications) to us at JMB, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.
- Join, renew, or reinstate your membership in JMB Website Supporters. This is the best option since it gives you over 300 benefits and island discounts that are good as long as your membership is active. (See the story at the end of this email please.) Many businesses have already reopened on SXM, and more open every week. Boat owners whose tour boats sank have bought new boats and are readying them right now. SXM is welcoming more tourists every single day. To re-join just click the page curl on everythingxsm.com -- all the info is there. You can also call the office and leave the info there; our numbers are 508-830-3456 (main) or 508-747-8281.
- Join SkyMed. It's the best medevac protection you can buy, in our view; you've likely read about in *Weekly News* and you know you should have it; it covers traveling Americans and Canadians in the USA, Canada,

Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and in every nation of the Caribbean including Cuba. If you want global protection, that's available too. (It won't cover you in places like North Korea, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia....) See getskymed.com for much more, or call Jeff directly at 508-747-8281. He can answer all your questions and get you going.

- Even get some of our exclusive copyrighted SXM Euro Oval stickers. They're two for \$10 or five for \$15. You can order them via PayPal (include your shipping address) or by check (US checks only drawn on US banks). Our address is below. The PayPal pay-to email address is jeff@jmbcommunications.com as you saw above. We will resume shipping these on March 10 ... so order now.
- Check Out Our Extensive Website Design / Content Creation / Website Hosting Services. See websitesthatworkusa.com or our broader jmbcommunications.com, with even more services. Hosting info is at jmbwebhosting.com.
- Thank you, as always, for your support.

26. US/Canadian ExPats Living on SXM Can Get SkyMed Coverage Too

SkyMed coverage is incredibly important for US and Canadian ex-pats living on St. Maarten, other Caribbean islands, or even Mexico. Your US or Canadian health insurance does not work in any of those places. So, in case of a critical illness or injury, you must get back to your province in Canada or to the US for treatment to be covered by your health insurance.

SkyMed Takes You Home®. Here are details:

First, 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 -- just extended and expanded -- 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. And it has now been expanded and extended: see story in this issue.

The double bonus offer comes only with SkyMed memberships purchased from us now...

How Does SkyMed Work?

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?

Attention ExPats: 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.

For more information, see www.getskymed.com or contact Jeff any business day (including this week) 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.

27. Traveling Anywhere Soon? SkyMed Takes You Home®

More Info: 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. Email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com or jeff@jmbcommunications.com.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/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 Triple Bonus in another story 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. .

28. Now: Ten-Year Price Guarantee for SkyMed's Most Cost-Effective Medevac Protection

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 which is the only way to get this level of protection if you're not a SkyMed member.

Those out-of-pocket costs are huge: upwards of \$45,000 in many cases, and often far more.

Prepay for five years at the sharply reduced rate of \$2495 for JMB Website Supporters members exclusively. 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 get many features and benefits, too; here they are.

If it's more convenient, you can also pay \$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.

Learn more at www.getskymed.com.

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a unit of JMB Communications.

29. 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 now until at least May, 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....

30. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

**[Get The Current Low Price](#)
[on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)
[and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.](#)**

That's a 10-year price guarantee. More benefits... **same price.**

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

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

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us (Revised 8/21/17)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact **support@jmbcommunications.com**

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com** with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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