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Vol. 2, #1142 --- March 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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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.

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

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in.

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

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- Why Some SXM Restaurants Haven't Reopened
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-- **Now: Ten-Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed's Most Cost-Effective Medevac Protection**

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-- **Traveling Anywhere Soon? SkyMed Takes You Home®**

26 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 3/10/2018 3/31/2018 weeks 10, 11, and 12 The Villas at Simpson Bay Jr. Suite with magnificent views from private balcony. Two queen beds, kitchenette with microwave, dorm size fridge, coffee maker. Marble bath with double sinks. Resort is complete with on-site restaurants, casino, beaches, pools, shopping. Boat trips and scuba adventures leave from property. \$1100 per week plus \$100 donation to employee recovery fund. \$50 timeshare tax not included marie 646 894 0317 marielevine3@icloud.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/10/2018 3/17/2018 Week 10 Sapphire Beach Club Resort Sapphire Beach Club Resort Two bedroom. Sleeps 6 using pull-out queen sleeper in the living room. Luxurious master bedroom has king-sized bed and adjacent marble bathroom. Unit has marble floors, fully equipped kitchen, a/c, cable, two flat-screen TVs, refrigerator w/icemaker, etc. Resort has pool, available computers and WiFi, restaurant/bar, fitness center, concierge/activity desk and car rental. Sapphire has its own beach and pool with lounge chairs. Ideal location--on the Dutch side, but just steps away from the French border. Seeking immediate sale. Buyer pays transfer fees. Only \$500. Note: May be used during any available week this year; resort has not yet reopened. Call me for details. Brook 410-491-9081 bbotvin@outlook.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 / SXM" 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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- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 300+** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. 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. Major US East Coast Storm Sends SXM Swells

The major US East Coast storm forecast to affect the area from Virginia to Maine with high winds, heavy rains, coastal flooding and snow, plus serious beach erosion is also having an effect on SXM. As early as Friday, courses for the Heineken Regatta were altered to keep smaller boats away from the northern end of the island, where the storm was already sending large swells toward Northern and Eastern facing island beaches.

Island92's Jeff Sochrin told us Friday that the storm seemed to be sucking energy away from the Caribbean, resulting in light winds for the Regatta. But Meteorologist Rob Lightbown reported that high surf from the swells would be affecting much of the Northeast Caribbean, as well as the US Coast as far south as Florida, creating potentially dangerous surf conditions at some beaches.

The bull's-eye of the storm was expected to be southeastern New England, where winds of 65 to 85 mph were expected along the coast, along with serious to historic major flooding at times of astronomical high tide. The storm was not expected to wind down over SE Massachusetts until late Saturday, but flooding high tides will continue to be a problem there, he added. Two million were reported to have lost power by Friday evening and thousands of flights had been cancelled in airports throughout the region. The governor of Massachusetts and a number of mayors warned residents to be prepared and to stay out of flood prone areas. Flight cancellations were expected to impact trips to/from SXM.

More from SXM is [here](#).

2. Hurricane Season May Be "Front Loaded": Lightbown

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather Tells *SXM Weekly News* that the coming hurricane season may be as bad as or worse than the 2017 season: "I think that we could see the following for the 2018 Atlantic, Gulf of

Mexico and Caribbean Hurricane Season: 17 Named Storms, 8 of those storms becoming hurricanes and 3 of those of hurricanes becoming Major Hurricanes."

He also said that the season may be different than most in terms of when hurricanes appear, thanks to an evolving El Niño condition.

That El Niño, developing during the Fall, could result in the 2018 season being frontloaded, which means storms developing as soon as June — possibly both in the Caribbean and along the US East Coast — and July, with fewer storms during the usual peak period in September and October.

He also said this in a message last week to his paid subscribers: "As for possible storm tracks during the 2018 Hurricane Season – An active phase of the Multi-Decadal Oscillation, neutral ENSO conditions, above average sea surface temperatures over the western Atlantic would all potentially do the following: First is cause the ridge of high pressure near Newfoundland to extend further southwest. Second is produce a weaker trough of low pressure over the central Atlantic. Third is shift the subtropical ridge of high pressure further to the northeast.

"This all would lead to lower than average surface barometric pressures over the deep tropics and delay any storms from curving to the north and northeast. This would mean an increased threat to the Florida Peninsula as well as along the entire US East Coast. This type of pattern would also cause a increased landfall threat to the western Caribbean, the northeastern Gulf of Mexico and eastern Mexico.

"Finally, I could also envision a scenario that features two track clusters. The first track cluster would be a Caribbean cruiser that moves from east to west from the Lesser Antilles through the entire Caribbean into Central America or the Yucatan Peninsula. The second track cluster would include systems that move just north of the Caribbean and then gradually turn northward and eventually northeast. This second track cluster would lead to a threat to the Bahamas, Florida and the US East Coast."

For years, we have recommended that anyone in the potential track of tropical cyclones subscribe to Rob Lightbown's reports for paid subscribers only, which are remarkably inexpensive considering their value. See his site, which we regard as the best, most comprehensive weather site on the web, at www.crownweather.com.

3. Two Minor Quakes Last Week, Barely Felt

Two minor earthquakes hit near the area of St. Maarten last week within a day of each other. They were in the "3" area of the Richter scale, which means they were barely felt if they were felt at all. No damage was reported anywhere. Such tremors are not at all unusual in SXM, and tend to be felt a few times a year.

4. 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.*

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

SkyMed Travel offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through *SkyMed Travel*.

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for ***Weekly News*** readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. ***If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.***

You won't be disappointed.

Changing Your Email Address?

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One for your SXM Weekly News subscription Quickly and Easily at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com

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

6. SXM Timeshare Condo & Villa Rentals

With several timeshare resorts coming back online — Sea Palace and Atrium Resort, with others to follow soon -- 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.

Our timeshare rentals page was heavily updated last week.

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 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

Huge Sale on
SkyMed's Lowest Daily Cost
Five-Year SkyMed Ultimate
Medical Evacuation Memberships!
SkyMed's best coverage!

**Buy or Upgrade to a new Five-Year SkyMed Ultimate
Membership Through Us (their Best Membership
at their Lowest Daily Cost) & Get 10 Years
of membership in JMB Website Supporters
w/ About 300 SXM Discounts
as our Huge Winter 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 3/11/18 (just extended).

Not combinable with any other offer.
Available exclusively through us.
Offer ends 3/11/18.
For details, contact
Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281
or email Jeff.Berger@skymed.com
with the Subject "SkyMed."
Do it now...
this offer will soon disappear.

8. Heineken Regatta Results

When we spoke with Dr. Soc, Jeff Sochrin of Island92 radio/Regatta radio on Friday morning, he told us that wind conditions for the Regatta were light, which he related to the large storm off the northeastern US sucking energy away from the Caribbean. Light winds would affect the Regatta, as with the swells mentioned in story number 1. Because *SXM Weekly News* is written for the most part on Friday, while the Regatta is still well underway, this edition of *Weekly News* can't print the results. But you can find them — along with lots of great photography of race activities — at www.heinekenregatta.com, the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta website.

If you're on the island and are one of the early recipients of this edition of *Weekly News*, which started mailing on Friday night, you'll also see information about entertainment venues and performances for the legendary Heineken Regatta parties. Shaggy is the lead entertainer this year. Last year, it was UB40. If you've never been here for the Heineken Regatta you should try to do it next year. It's the busiest, most exciting time of the year on SXM.

Quite a show.

9. Regatta Village Opens at Port de Plaisance

For years, the Heineken Regatta's biggest party has been on Kimsha beach, which enabled people staying at Royal Palm, Atrium, and Simpson Bay Resort to hear the festivities from afar and enjoy the sound of the entertainment without the crowds.

This year, the Heineken Regatta village was created at Port de Plaisance, also home to other Regatta festivities. The area is more self-contained, bothers fewer neighbors, and from what we hear is also better from a security perspective.

Here's more on [the new venue](#).

10. Why Some SXM Restaurants Haven't Reopened

A few weeks ago, we reported that top island insurance companies were claiming to have already fulfilled about 60% of insurance claims on the island.

Why, then, are so many island businesses still complaining that their insurance claims haven't been paid?

The reason, one well-connected insider told us this week, is that insurance companies are allegedly paying small claims quickly but dragging their heels on the bigger claims affecting bigger businesses on the island. Those businesses can't afford to spend six or seven figure sums without their insurance claims having been settled.

If you're wondering why some larger SXM businesses aren't yet back in business, agonizingly slow insurance claims

processing is the reason, from what we're hearing. It's something the SXM government might want to investigate; it certainly isn't helping the island economy.

11. New Ferry to Anguilla Starts at Pink Iguana

Most people taking a ferry to neighboring Anguilla use the comparatively large ferries leaving from downtown Marigot — quick, inexpensive trips across the Anguilla channel.

However, some people, particularly those just arriving at Princess Juliana SXM airport, prefer to take the smaller boats available a quick walk from the airport.

The ferry facilities there were destroyed by hurricane Irma, but now those services are resuming from the Pink Iguana, the boat bar on the lagoon beyond the airport's main parking area. Here are [details](#).

12. New Airport Roof Construction Begins This Month

Although internal demolition at the SXM Airport terminal began weeks ago, replacement of the roof which was severely compromised by hurricane Irma will just start this month. It is expected to be completed by hurricane season, which actually starts June 1 — a quick turnaround, if that happens. The most significant fact about the new roof is that it is expected to withstand winds of about 300 km/h, which is 186 mph. The sustained winds in Irma, the most powerful tropical cyclone in the Atlantic storm history, were 185 mph but with recorded 240 mile-per-hour gusts in some tornadoes.

What would happen to the new roof were it to be hit by a tornado is anybody's guess, but hopefully the new roof will be solid and last for decades.

Here is detailed information about [construction](#) of the new roof.

More news follows this message:

*****Final Week!*****

Mid Winter JMB Membership Sale
Ends Sunday March 11!

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

Join, Renew, or Reinstate Today:
Ends Soon!

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

just \$99

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/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!

13. Dutch Side Election Results

A couple of things happened In the Dutch side election this week that surprised us.

First, the Democratic Party, headed by former Prime Minister Sarah Wescot Williams, merged with party headed by former Vice Prime Minister and longtime political tour de force Theo Heyliger, head of the United People's party (UP). Together they formed the United Democratic Party. (SXM has more than a baker's dozen political parties.)

The United Democratic Party won seven of the 15 seats in parliament, more than any other political party. It was expected to form a coalition with another party to give it the majority required to set up a new coalition government. We sent a query to Sarah Wescot Williams who told us Friday, "All options being currently explored. No decision yet; all have their pro's and cons."

Mr. Heyliger had some interesting comments about the election and about the course forward. His comments are [here](#).

The other interesting thing that happened is that former Prime Minister William Marlin has been voted back into the government. He had been thrown out of office in a no-confidence vote by Parliament after insisting that the Kingdom of the Netherlands give SXM about half a billion Euros for hurricane recovery without SXM accounting for how it is spent, thereby stonewalling relief efforts. The Kingdom declined. It was thought he was widely unpopular for that relief debacle, but somehow he got the votes to have a seat at the table again.... More on that is [here](#).

14. Sargassum Seaweed Possibly Poised to Return

As if SXM doesn't have enough to worry about, now the SXM Nature Foundation is saying that Sargassum seaweed from the Sargasso Sea may be poised to return after an extended near-complete absence.

Resorts are reopening at a rapid clip, and hotels are doing likewise. Weather is gorgeous. Winds are light. Sea water temperatures are warm. Tourists are returning, though not in typical numbers thanks to Irma taking away thousands of overnight accommodations and airlines charging high fares on infrequent flights. *Now this.* Here are [details](#).

15. AA Charging Very High Fares for SXM Trips

For years, we've been monitoring very closely the behavior and performance of airlines as it relates to SXM. Most of the complaints we've seen have long regarded LIAT, Leeward Islands Air Transport, though many people who have been stranded by that airline have openly said that Liat should stand for "leave island any time." Insel Air, now collapsing, is a close second.

Now Liat has some surprising competition in the complaint department: American Airlines. We have seen more complaints about AA in the last several weeks than we've seen regarding all other airlines in the last several years related to SXM service.

AA has been regarded as the backbone of airlift from the US to SXM for decades. But its service to the island is now just through Miami, with horrible connection times from many cities particularly in the Midwest and Far West. Some connections involve overnights at a connecting city. Worse — if that's possible — is that the fares AA is charging are astronomical, at times approaching \$1000 per passenger, passengers are telling us, more than double the usual rate. By contrast, JetBlue is offering its usual rather reasonable fares from New York seven days a week, and it has offered for the last several weeks.

If you have comments on American or any other airline serving SXM, we welcome you to post them on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

16. Our SXM Info Portal: Everything SXM Facebook Site

Our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) — now with more than 20,000 members — is a great place to go when you have SXM questions, want to post SXM pictures, or simply want to talk with others who share a common love of your favorite island. If you haven't already joined our site, do so soon; just click the link and answer a couple of simple vetting questions. You'll quickly be added, and you can join in the fun that this group brings to its members worldwide.

17. Perfection: Summer '18 Vacation in SXM

When you go away for your summer vacation, does it sometimes seem to you that half the planet goes with you? Are you tired of all that congestion? SXM is the answer to huge crowds, mammoth traffic jams, over-the-top pricing, and sweltering humidity. If you want the exact opposite of all those things — plus beautiful quiet beaches, warm tropical waters, and fantastic restaurants, your summer vacation -- this year especially -- should be in SXM.

For more information, see [everythingSXM.com](#) and also our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). To reserve your own Villa or timeshare condominium, please see our [everythingSXM.com](#) site, where hundreds are listed.

18. SkyMed Bonuses Greatly Simplified & Updated

We've published a few SkyMed bonuses in recent months and SkyMed published its own bonus recently. We decided to simplify things so your "bonus" process is much faster and easier. Here are the details:

From SkyMed, about the new SkyMed Loyalty Program: If you're a SkyMed member with an annual or longer SkyMed medevac membership, you can recommend SkyMed to a friend (and tell us their name and phone number if that's OK with them). When they join SkyMed through us with an annual or longer new SkyMed membership, you get an extension of a month of your current, unexpired SkyMed membership. No limit -- recommend 10 people who join through us and you get 10 extensions to your own SkyMed membership. It's a neat program -- do plan to take advantage of it soon.

From JMB, SkyMed Bonuses (New): When you upgrade your annual SkyMed membership (bought through us) to a 3- or 5-year SkyMed Ultimate, or when you get a new Ultimate through us, we'll give you a JMB Website Supporters membership extension equal to the duration of your SkyMed purchase. All you need do is forward your SkyMed "welcome" email to us, and ask for the JMB extension.

When upgrading to or purchasing a new 5-year SkyMed Ultimate membership (their best and *least expensive* product), if you opt for automatic renewals (which gives you their 10-year price guarantee), we will give you a 10-year extension of your JMB Website Supporters membership. All you need do here as well is forward your SkyMed "welcome" email to us, and ask for the JMB extension.

Note: if you are renewing your existing five-year Ultimate purchased through us, we'll give you a five year extension of your JMB Website Supporters membership. Again, you must forward us your "Welcome" email to get this, and request it.

All bonus years are for JMB Website Supporters memberships only. This offer may expire at any time. It's a great way to get SkyMed peace-of-mind and add to your JMB Website Supporters membership simultaneously -- and without it costing you anything out-of-pocket.

To qualify for any of our SkyMed bonuses, you must purchase / upgrade a SkyMed membership through us at getskymed.com, via phone at 508-747-8281, or directly with SkyMed International *if and only if* you tell them when joining that you were referred by Everything SXM / Jeff Berger. The bonuses do not apply to any memberships not purchased through us and are not combinable with any other offers.

For answers to SkyMed questions or to sign up, call us at 508-747-8281 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Please use the subject "SkyMed."

Key Advantages of SkyMed Annual & Multiyear Memberships
Versus Short-Term SkyMed Memberships:

SkyMed short-term memberships "Take You Home" to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. But when they expire, you must apply for new protection when you next travel - - and serious changes in your health could make it impossible to qualify. Plus, family short-term coverage costs about \$15/day and that's a lot of money.

By contrast, SkyMed Annual and multiyear Ultimate family memberships currently cost only about \$1.30/day, and they give you family coverage*. What's more, SkyMed Ultimate multiyear memberships offer even more protection -- including global coverage through our Global ETS program. And all annual or longer SkyMed memberships are guaranteed renewable at the current membership fee applicable to all members regardless of your age or health at the time of renewal. You could be 109 years old and still be protected by your SkyMed membership.

There is also no age limit to apply for SkyMed memberships -- and all pre-existing conditions are covered after a brief 90-day waiting period after your annual or multiyear membership begins. (They're covered in full immediately in short-term memberships.)

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Why risk waiting? For answers to SkyMed questions or to sign up, call us at 508-747-8281 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Please use the subject "SkyMed."

19. 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 Bonuses now in effect; see preceding story.

20. Restaurant of the Week

Returns soon.

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) Reopened as Cafe Spiga, new menu; redesigned; also now serving lunch. 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) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

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) Recently reopened.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 1/22/18). Reopened. Now open Wed through Sunday 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.

21. 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.

22. 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 SkyMed bonus -- just extended and expanded -- is simple. See previous stories, above.

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.

23. 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. .

24. 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.

You must join through us at our site or by phone to get all these benefits. Learn more at www.getskymed.com or call our SkyMed Northeast Sales Office at 508-747-8281. You can also apply by phone, easily, in about 10 minutes.

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In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

25. 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....

26. 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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