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Vol. 2, #1145 --- March 26, 2018  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

## [Member News](#)

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

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**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...*

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**This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices.** Scroll down for this week's news.

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[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

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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:

**In This Week's SXM Weekly News:**

- Thanks to Storms, Some Returns Delayed Until 4/4**
- Airport Reorganizes Traffic, Confuses Tourists**
- Norwegian Jewel Apparently Saying No To French Side Tourism**
- On Rob Lightbown's Forecast of 2018 Hurricanes**
- United Airlines To Stop Carrying Pets, Temporarily**
- More on Fire Protection in the Twin 21-Story Cupecoy Towers**
- Atty. Stefan Fox on Indigo Bay Developer Bankruptcy**
- Details on SBR's Irma Special Assessments**

- **Minor Quakes Rattle SXM -- Slightly**
- **New York Times Focuses on Negatives in SXM Story**
- **What's Open, What Isn't**
- **Philipsburg Is Open For Business**
- **Activity Picks Up in Maho, Royal Palm Areas**
- **Where Key Busby / Daniel's Folks Are**
- **Club Orient's Tiko Tiko May Bite The Dust**
- **"Cigar Mack" Moves to Philipsburg from Maho**
- **About Your Safety in SXM**
- **SkyMed Bonuses Greatly Simplified and Updated**
- **Now: Ten-Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed's Most Cost-Effective Medevac Protection**
- **SkyMed Coverage Available for US/Canadian ExPats Living on SXM, Too**
- **Traveling Anywhere Soon? SkyMed Takes You Home®**

**35** news stories this week

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

## Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

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

Live issues only

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

Live issues only

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

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

## Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):** [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

## This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

### **"Like" Our ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / 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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

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

**Section One:** Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather [Go To This Section](#)

1. Thanks to Storms, Some Returns Delayed Until 4/4
2. Airport Reorganizes Traffic, Confuses Tourists
3. Norwegian Jewel Saying No To French Side Tourism
4. On Rob Lightbown's Forecast of 2018 Hurricanes
5. United Airlines To Stop Carrying Pets, Temporarily
6. Is Ticket Reciprocity Returning to U. S. Airlines?
7. Current SXM Weather Info
8. Guaranteed Lowest Rates For Hotel Rooms / Car Rentals

**Section Two:** Accommodations (*Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.*) [Go To This Section](#)

9. More on Fire Protection in the Twin 21-Story Cupecoy Towers
10. Atty. Stefan Fox on Indigo Bay Developer Bankruptcy
11. Details on SBR's Irma Special Assessments
12. SXM Timeshare Condo & Villa Rentals

*St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):* [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

**Section Three:** JMB Member Discounts & Benefits [Go To This Section](#)

13. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates (Updated)

**Section Four:** Island News, Info, & Features [Go To This Section](#)

14. Minor Quakes Rattle SXM -- Slightly
15. New York Times Focuses on Negatives in SXM Story
16. What's Open, What Isn't
17. Philipsburg Is Open For Business
18. Activity Picks Up in Maho, Royal Palm Areas
19. Where Key Busby / Daniel's Folks Are
20. Club Orient's Tiko Tiko May Bite The Dust
21. SXM Observations from Ed Misiph
22. "Cigar Mack" Moves to Philipsburg from Maho
23. Introducing "Billy," New Cupecoy Mascot
24. About Your Safety in SXM
25. GEBE Management Still Not Doing Its Job
26. TripAdvisor's Bogus Promotions Re: Sonesta Maho
27. SkyMed Bonuses Greatly Simplified and Updated
28. Time To Get SkyMed Peace-of-Mind for Summer & Beyond
29. Restaurant of the Week
30. Our Thanks To You...
31. US/Canadian ExPats Living on SXM Can Get SkyMed Coverage Too
32. Traveling Anywhere Soon? SkyMed Takes You Home®
33. Now: Ten-Year Price Guarantee for SkyMed's Most Cost-Effective Medevac Protection
34. Summertime Vacation Giveaway Slated for This May
35. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

**Section Five:** For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

**B. Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

**C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

Not a member yet? See [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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\***  
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This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read \*From JMB\* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

## **THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

### **SECTION 1: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather**

## **1. Thanks to Storms, Some Returns Delayed Until 4/4**

Many of us have mused about being stuck on a gorgeous tropical island. Except for when Irma pummeled SXM almost seven months ago, few have experienced it ... until last Wednesday, when the most recent blizzard struck the East coast.

A reader wrote: "A friend was due to fly home on March 21, but his flight and a number of others were canceled because of the blizzard. He was told that *no seats home would be available for him until April 4*, forcing him to spend an additional two weeks on the island."

He was evidently okay with that, but for many people it's a huge inconvenience requiring many phone calls for changes to existing plans, appointments, arrangements, etc. And that doesn't contemplate figuring out how to handle US prescriptions at Dutch or French drugstores, where exact equivalent medications aren't always available. Be careful what you wish for....

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## **2. Airport Reorganizes Traffic, Confuses Tourists**

To enable tourists to get to departing flights more conveniently, SXM airport has announced a new travel pattern.

Like other media, *SXM Weekly News* was sent information on this along with a graphic illustrating how arriving and departing passengers are supposed to navigate within the new pattern. We decided to post the pattern on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), where we enabled site visitors to comment on it. They did; see the site for their reactions -- and the graphic. .

Bottom line, most tourists commenting said that the new travel pattern was clear as mud. Others, many of whom had recently used the new temporary SXM airport terminals, heaped praise on the terminals themselves but criticized the airport for its lack of signage to direct tourists.

If you are on the island, we suggest you go by the airport to familiarize yourself in advance with the new pattern so you needn't waste time when you're scheduled to fly home.

We told the airport about tourists' reactions to this, and they are working to simplify it.

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### 3. Norwegian Jewel Apparently Saying No To French Side Tourism

Last week, we responded here to anecdotal reports that some crewmembers on some cruise ships headed for SXM were telling tourists, verbally or in print, to avoid the French side of the island.

We asked our readers to send information to [susan@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susan@jmbcommunications.com) about such incidents, including copies of any printed material the cruise ship lines were handing out to tourists, as well as the names of cruise lines or specific ships involved in this practice.

Although we still don't have copies of the material, passengers are alleging that crewmembers on **Norwegian Jewel** have handed out printed material to passengers telling them to avoid the French side of the island because of destruction and the lack of facilities. While it is true that destruction on the French side was somewhat worse than on the Dutch, work is well underway, as we've been reporting, to restore tourist amenities quickly and enable tourists to fully enjoy their time on both sides the island.

Of course there is still destruction in SXM, as has been widely reported. But many restaurants are open, a number of hotels and timeshares are already open and others will be opening soon, and the island is already clearly back on its feet — both on the Dutch side and on the French. And all beaches are incredibly beautiful.

Directions telling cruise ship passengers or airline passengers to avoid either the French or Dutch side are patently misleading and both ignorant and arrogant. You can get a tremendous amount of current, correct, first-hand information about the status of any place on the island directly from people who have been there on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), which is why we've been urging readers of *SXM Weekly News* to use Facebook and enjoy that site. Our page there has always been secure, which means that only members of the site may see its posts — no lurkers. You need answer only a few very simple questions to join that site, which is free. In addition to information, you'll also find many pictures there and people available around the clock who would love to answer your questions.

Perhaps more cruise ship companies and their employees serving St. Maarten should join our site; they just might learn a few things they may not currently know.

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### 4. On Rob Lightbown's Forecast of 2018 Hurricanes

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown, head of crownweather.com, our go-to source for private tropical weather information, is currently preparing the early-April update of his 2018 Atlantic / Caribbean hurricane forecast. It will be of serious interest not only to people in the Caribbean, but also to everyone in the US who either has interests in the Caribbean (like all of us), or who lives along the US East or Gulf coasts and may be a target for 2018 storms.

His revised forecast is expected to be released next week. We will post it at once on our **JMB Website Supporters** Facebook Site (JMB members only; join by going to the site and telling us your JMB membership number, which will be verified). It will also be published in the next regular issue of *SXM Weekly News*, and will be sent as a Bulletin to all JMB Website Supporters members.

If you're not yet a JMB member, see the beginning of Section III and join today. Our current Sale was extended due to the recent storms but it will end this Wednesday, March 28, and can not be further extended.

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### 5. United Airlines To Stop Carrying Pets, Temporarily

Pets whose owners customarily take them on United Airlines will be elated to learn that UA will stop flying them until sometime in May (unless their passage has already been bought / paid for), so the airline can figure out why so many pets in its care have died recently or been sent to somewhere other than their intended destination.



Hopefully United can straighten this mess out. Pet owners like to fly with their animals, and those owners should be confident that the animals are safely cared for by the airline. Right now, that is not the case....

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## 6. Is Ticket Reciprocity Returning to U. S. Airlines?

Not many years ago, passengers were issued paper tickets instead of boarding passes. If their flight were delayed or cancelled, they could call another airline, book *their* next flight, go to the proper gate, hand them their paper ticket, and fly. It was ticket reciprocity, and it made it relatively simple to get to your destination.

Reciprocity went away, for whatever reason, and inconveniencing passengers became normal for many legacy airlines. But now there is talk among some carriers about bringing it back.

We hope that happens, since it could make it far easier for people to get to important family events, business meetings, etc. -- and it would be an actual kind, human gesture by an industry mostly known these days for negative things like cramming passengers into unholy uncomfortableness on most flights, nickel-and-diming tourists for everything but toilets, outrageous fees for flight changes and checked baggage, etc. .

We'll keep you posted. More stories follow this message,

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**\*\*\*\*\*Final Three Days\*\*\*\*\***  
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**Winter JMB Membership Sale  
Ends This Wednesday March 28  
at 11:59 p.m. PDT!**  
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**Get About 300 SXM Discounts  
& Many Other Benefits Through Our Exclusive  
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**

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**Join, Renew, or Reinstate Today:  
Almost Over!**

**New JMB memberships: One year \$39; Two, \$59; Our Best Offer: Four Years just \$99**  
[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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](http://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>

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

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

**Please Join Today!**

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## 7. Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com), and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. 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](http://www.island92.com). They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming. They were knocked off the air by Irma but are now back.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

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

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

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

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members



only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

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## **Changing Your Email Address?**

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

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

## **9. More on Fire Protection in the Twin 21-Story Cupecoy Towers**

Ever since we ran the story last week about twin 21-story residential towers planned for land between the Mullet Bay Golf Course and Starz Casino, there have been questions about the fire safety of the structures.

We're told the buildings will be constructed of cement, steel, and glass, and that they will meet or exceed standards for withstanding storms like Irma as well as seismic events.

We are trying to get clarity on whether the buildings will be sprinklered; whether each floor will have its own standpipes and hoses for firefighting (which we believe is the case); and whether SXM has any tower trucks with ladders capable of reaching the highest floors of these towers, which will be among the island's tallest structures.

We've suggested editorially that the developer donate such a tower truck to the Dutch Side, if it doesn't have one, which would underscore its dedication to safety.

None of these latter questions has as yet been answered. We'll keep you posted.

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## **10. Atty. Stefan Fox on Indigo Bay Developer Bankruptcy**

SXM attorney Stefan Fox answered our request for more information about the bankruptcy of the developer of the sprawling Indigo Bay development in Cay Hill. Here are his comments:

*In order to answer you questions. This bankruptcy pertains to the project on the top. The first project at Indigo. The*

so called 'Oceans' project consisting of approximately 36 houses. The developer is a company called: IBDC.

All people who bought in the bankrupt Ocean's project are left with no other choice than to finish the construction of their house themselves. Almost everybody there is in an overpaid position meaning that they paid more to the developer than what they received back in property value since their last installments were largely not applied to the completion of the relevant construction stage. The bankruptcy was filed and declared by the courts since the developer claims he does not have any funds to complete or reimburse. It's up to the bankruptcy trustee to locate any possible assets belonging to the developer in order to liquidate and reimburse the owners and pay for their additional damages. I am afraid that the developer has alienated any remaining assets belonging to the bankrupted company long ago.

As far as I'm aware all units had been sold and transferred in ownership time ago, thus before the bankruptcy. The set up was that after the first two installments you would obtain a property title. According to the construction agreements the developer then was obligated to continue with the staged completion of the construction. This however did never happen. The project had been halted for already more than two years. Bottom line: nobody lost their property since title was obtained prior to bankruptcy, but owners paid much more than what they got and on top of this all, they now have to complete their properties themselves investing additional money by contracting other builders to finalize their homes. I calculate that the damage for the combined ownership exceeds more than 2 million USD.

What is even more troublesome: this bankrupted company's owner and Director- Mr. Mark van de Bilt, is still co-stakeholder in the entire remaining land at Indigo: namely, the large lower center part bordering the beach. Ironically he is also the President of the Master Home Owners Foundation that governs all the common areas in use by all owners in the entire Indigo Bay, such as the roads security, utilities and green zones at Indigo. This all seems possible on SXM. He was appointed by the main owners (and he is one of the three) of the remaining land (the main center lower areas bordering the beach) which through this ownership represent and own together still more than 60% of the land at Indigo.

I hope this information helps.

Best regards,  
Stefan J. Fox

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## 11. Details on SBR's Irma Special Assessments

Simpson Bay Resort has issued special assessments upon timeshare owners and points holders of all of its surviving timeshare buildings.

We posted an Excel spreadsheet of all of these charges as a PDF in the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). If you'd like to refer to the assessments, you can see them there.

If you own timesharing in one of the buildings that was closed — Dieffenbachia, Croton, or Caladium — please contact the resort using the contact information they supplied to owners. Acting quickly will get you winter reservations at SBR, as always.

As we reported last week, Dieffenbachia has already been largely demolished, and the other buildings are expected to follow. They were damaged beyond the ability to repair.

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## 12. SXM Timeshare Condo & Villa Rentals

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, and Atrium Resort, with Divi, Simpson Bay, and Oyster Bay Beach following 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 everythingxsm.com. Check them out: they will be heavily revised this week.

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### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

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

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.*

*We expect to start adding new discounts and benefits in the next week or two. Please stay tuned; special special messages will be sent to all JMB Website Supporters members as the newest benefits are rolled out.*

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

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

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**Huge Sale Continues  
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).  
Not combinable with any other offer.**

**Available exclusively through us.  
For details, contact  
Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281  
or email [Jeff.Berger@skymed.com](mailto:Jeff.Berger@skymed.com)  
with the Subject "SkyMed."  
Do it now...  
this offer could soon disappear.**

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## 14. Minor Quakes Rattle SXM -- Slightly

Toward the end of last week and early during last weekend, there were scattered reports of minor tremors from various people across the island.

Usually, such reports are backed up by reports of seismic incidents somewhere nearby in the Caribbean. In this case, however, we were able to find no such reports.

Although that juxtaposition is strange, all it means is that the tremors weren't significant enough to be picked up as seismic readings. It doesn't mean that they didn't happen.

Seismic events are common throughout the Caribbean. In SXM, they seem to be occurring every few weeks now, but none recently has been serious on SXM.

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## 15. *New York Times* Focuses on Negatives in SXM Story

*The New York Times* has run several stories over the last few months concerning SXM. Its latest is [here](#), which was also published in a special section in yesterday's Sunday *New York Times*.

The online version of the story, which has been live for almost a week, is noted on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). Both versions mention Spiga, the award winning Italian restaurant opposite Tijon Parfumerie in the northern end of Grand Case; it has long been one of our favorites. The online version of the story links directly to [the Spiga website](#).

Although we have tremendous respect for *The New York Times*, we thought their story focused more on yesterday than on today or tomorrow. The bottom line is that the island, as we've said here repeatedly, suffered a devastating blow from the worst hurricane in Atlantic basin history. The Dutch side particularly is making a remarkable recovery, although evidence of Irma's fury remains clearly visible across the island and will for some time to come.

The great news is that many restaurants have already reopened; that many villas, hotels, and timeshares either already have opened or will reopen in the next few months; and that the resiliency of the people of the island shows through in their attitude toward what has happened and how they have rallied, rather incredibly, to come back.

Take a look at the article and see what you think.

If you haven't already finalized plans for your summer vacation, SXM is a great place to be, especially in July when the weather may be the best of the year. Virtually all restaurants will be open, as will many hotels and timeshares. You will enjoy serenity and great weather well before hurricane season usually picks up.

And of course, the island will welcome you with open arms and the most sincere, welcoming smiles you can imagine.

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## 16. What's Open, What Isn't

Our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) includes a Files section with lots of details about your favorite restaurants, attractions, timeshares, and hotels across the island, and lots of other things.

There are also many comments from our more than 20,000 site members about all of these places. So, if you don't find the answer to your question about what's open and what isn't in the Files area, search the site itself and you'll most likely find your answer.

If what you're looking for still isn't found, you can simply ask the question of the rest of our members in your own post. Chances are, an answer will appear quickly.

Our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) is, as far as we know, the largest active conversational SXM site on FB. It is also set up as a closed site, which means that out of respect for member privacy, only site members can see its posts and photos: no lurkers or outsiders can see anything. To join the site, visit it and answer a few very brief vetting questions. You'll find it one of the top resources on the web for getting your SXM questions answered quickly and accurately.

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## 17. Philipsburg Is Open For Business

You may not realize it, but Philipsburg is very much open for business — especially the jewelry stores which you have known and trusted for years.

Think about that concerning Mother's Day, Father's Day, upcoming graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, and special events. Jewelers, especially, can help you purchase the gift of your dreams (or your spouse's) based upon your description and an exchange of some pictures from their inventory. Plus, they will be grateful for your business and they'll give you the best possible deals on fine quality gems.

Check especially with our sponsors, Zhaveri Jewelers and Little Europe Jewelers in Philipsburg, plus Oro Diamante and Caribbean Gems. They are great people who offer outstanding quality, great service, and very reasonable pricing. Please tell them we sent you.

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## 18. Activity Picks Up in Maho, Royal Palm Areas

After witnessing very little reconstruction or site prep action over the last several months both throughout the Maho and Royal Palm areas, our readers are reporting much more action in both areas in recent days.

There are two reasons behind the lack of recent action.

First, most business owners have been pointing at their insurance companies for months, complaining about being nickel-and-dimed and lowballed after filing wholly legitimate claims based upon their actual coverage. That problem persists.

Second, the other major obstacle to launching an immediate rebuild is that engineering assessments are essential to determine the viability of structures after being hit by such a record-breaking storm. That takes some time, as of course does deciding what should be rebuilt and how: creating major improvements and moving them from concept to reality in terms of reconstruction takes time (and permits).

Now, in many places, the rubber is hitting the road.

**More news follows this message.**

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\*\*\*\*\***Final Three Days**\*\*\*\*\*

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**Winter JMB Membership Sale  
Ends This Wednesday March 28  
at 11:59 p.m. PDT!**

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

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**Join, Renew, or Reinstate Today:  
Almost Over!**

**New JMB memberships: One year \$39; Two, \$59; Our Best Offer: Four Years just \$99**  
[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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](http://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!**

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**19. Where Key Busby / Daniel's Folks Are**



One of our long-time readers submitted this report on some of the folks remembered by many from Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and Daniel's by the Sea in Dawn Beach, both destroyed by Irma; the owners there are still awaiting insurance settlements. Here is that report:

"Laurel, or Lulu, is the "boss" now at Rum and Peas, a rebuilt and repainted, refurbished, fun place directly across from the Cinema on the way to Simpson Bay. She is doing very well and we enjoyed the time together. (Rum and Peas is owned by Sherman Maarten, who also owns Canoa from Dawn Beach, destroyed by Irma. -Ed.)

"Sponge Bob, who had the rental chairs and etc. right next to Busby's also works there.

"Grey is currently in Jamaica but he's coming back.

"Raymond, the daytime chef at Busby's, works at Mark's Place, the restaurant right outside the new Carrefour Market Place in Simpson Bay (formerly Grand Marche).

"When you are on the island, stop by and see our friends from Busby's. They are the reason we stopped cruising and started spending many weeks a year on the island 10+ years ago."

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## 20. Club Orient's Tiko Tiko May Bite The Dust

Tiko Tiko, the catamaran that for many years has served as the home of clothing optional cruises for people sailing out of Club Orient, may not make it back to service. The boat was apparently quite severely damaged by Irma and it may prove beyond repair considering what the insurance company is offering. (Yet another insurance company issue.)

We hope this story has a happy ending and we'll keep watching it to let you know.

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## 21. SXM Observations from Ed Misiph

From long-time reader Ed Misiph:

*I visited SXM for 2 days in October & the what we went through arriving & departing was not pleasant at all. But then again it was only 4 weeks after a monster hurricane.*

*I came back in December for 4 days & the airport situation improved "somewhat" at arrivals but the departures were still very uncomfortable.*

*But when we arrived on Feb 28 I was very pleased with the process. It was much more organized & well run with minimal delay considering they were operating out of a huge tent.*

*The biggest change was the departure section. We were fortunate to be flying Jet Blue & were allowed to check in with our bags etc. then leave the area for a great lunch & come back 1 hour before our flight to go through immigration & security.*

*What we found in the new air conditioned "tent" was amazing.*

*It was very comfortable with plenty of chairs. There were numerous food concessions from Pizza, hot dogs, ready made sandwiches, sandwiches made to order, hot food dishes, hot conch chowder, variety of ice cream.*

*They had the normal souvenir shops along with liquor shop etc.*

*They had a bar section where you could sit on stools & enjoy a cool drink.*

*They even had a power station with tables & chairs to charge electronics.*

*The rest room area was very clean & plenty of room to change from shorts to jeans before boarding our flight.*

*It was truly amazing what they did with the glorified "tent".*

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## 22. "Cigar Mack" Moves to Philipsburg from Maho

For 10 years, Rakesh Naraindas, better known as Mack, has been one of SXM's top experts and dealers in habanos — Cuban cigars on SXM. He had outlets both in Philipsburg and at Maho. Because of the great destruction and now reconstruction at Maho, Mack has relocated his entire business for now to his Philipsburg location near L'Escargot restaurant, not far West of the center of Philipsburg on Front Street. He wanted to be sure his clients knew how to contact him.

He has been in business now for more than 10 years and is very widely respected and has just become a sponsor of JMB communications — this newsletter, our SXM Facebook site, and everythingSXM.com. If you like great Cuban cigars and lots more, he's the guy to see.

What follows is his contact info:

Cigar Mack / Kavita's Duty Free  
92 Front Street  
Philipsburg ,St.Maarten  
Mon to Sat - 9 am to 6 pm  
Sundays - 10 am to 4 pm

[www.lacasadepuros.com](http://www.lacasadepuros.com)

cigarmack[at]gmail.com  
kavitasdutyfree[at]gmail.com

Phone + 1721 5800811  
Usa line 305 -735 -2562

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## 23. Introducing "Billy," New Cupecoy Mascot

Over the years, Cupecoy beach has seen its share of mascots. Usually, they have been dogs but now — something new.

Some people think the new mascot is actually a very smart, well-trained dog wearing a goat costume. The reality, though, is even more astounding: Billy is an actual goat who appears to think he's a person, though he likes to play with the "other" dogs on the beach.

If you go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) and search Cupecoy you will find a picture of him. Don't forget to introduce yourself next time you visit the beach.

Cupecoy is largely clothing optional. Watch for Dany & John for chair and umbrella rentals, drinks, and food. Great people at one of the most beautiful beaches on the island.

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## 24. About Your Safety in SXM

Ric Hetzel first said it many years ago: SXM is paradise, not utopia. It certainly wasn't utopia in the immediate hours following hurricane Irma's appearance on the island when there was a substantial amount of looting, in a short-lived but ugly aftermath to the storm. Things have been back to normal for many months, and the island is as safe as it has been since before Irma.

But again, it's paradise and not utopia.

We urge you to take a look at our article [about your safety in SXM](#) from our everythingSXM.com website; it could mean a lot to your trip.

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## 25. GEBE Management Still Not Doing Its Job

GEBE is the Dutch side electric and water company. Heavily maligned over the years for its vastly overpriced

electricity and its kluge of a generating and distribution network that for years was allegedly not properly maintained, its management continues today to be receiving ongoing criticism.

It's a government owned company, which means it should be directed by and responsive to the government of the Dutch side of the island.

Instead, it has a reputation of being provincial, secretive, and not particularly customer oriented. As a government owned company, one should expect GEBE to pay attention to government priorities one of which is and always has been public safety.

Since GEBE says that all electric service has been restored in the wake of Irma, it would seem that should include street lights across the Dutch Side — but it doesn't. If electricity has been restored everywhere, then restoring street illumination should be a relatively simple process, with the busiest streets restored first.

But that hasn't happened. After Luis, the previous most devastating hurricane on SXM, it took years for GEBE to get this job done. GEBE should get its act together and get it done now -- in the next few weeks. Allowing busy streets to remain dark gives cover to prospective criminal activities — by default.

That needs to stop....

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## 26. TripAdvisor's Bogus Promotions Re: Sonesta Maho

Sometimes, communications operations in some companies don't do a very good job of proofreading or of fact checking. Take the case of the recent [bogus promotions](#) by TripAdvisor concerning the Sonesta Maho, which TripAdvisor characterizes -- wrongly -- as "Fully reconstructed after devastation by hurricane Irma."

A copy of their promotion was recently posted on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). The promotion clearly implied (or enabled readers to easily infer) that Sonesta Maho has already been rebuilt and redesigned and looks beautiful. The fact is quite the opposite. The Sonesta Maho today is basically the skeleton of the building it was before Irma. Rebuilding activity has just commenced and is nowhere near completion -- not even remotely.

Why TripAdvisor chose to publish material which is clearly contrary to the facts, we don't know. But in our humble opinion, it's time for them to issue a retraction and an apology for misleading the public.

Sonesta Maho will look great when finished -- but that's late this year at the earliest. It's just starting....

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## 27. 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.

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

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### **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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). Please use the subject "SkyMed."**

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## **28. Time To Get SkyMed Peace-of-Mind for Summer & Beyond**

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](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) and he'll be happy to answer all your questions.

**New Bonuses now in effect; see preceding story.**

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## **29. Restaurant of the 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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 2/6/17) Avantika is open. SXM's best Thai.

**Canoa**, [www.canoasxm.com](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 6/12/17) Recently reopened.

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://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.

**Bylbo, 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.

## 30. 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://websitesthatworkusa.com) or our broader [jmbcommunications.com](http://jmbcommunications.com), with even more services. Hosting info is at



jmbwebhosting.com.

- Thank you, as always, for your support.

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## 31. 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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## 32. 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](http://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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com) or [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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. .

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### 33. 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](http://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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### 34. 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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml)

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

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

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

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**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](http://getskymed.com).

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

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

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

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

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

**Want to rent or buy a week?**

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

### **SECTION 5: For Members Only**

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). To change your password, click that same link.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .Your username and password are required.

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com); unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

### **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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

**Privacy Policy** [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml)

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