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Happy Easter --- Happy Passover

Vol. 2, #1146 --- Monday, April 2, 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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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: 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.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingxm.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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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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-- **Airport Plane Viewing Changes Won't be Quick**

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

26 news stories this week

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

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

Resumes next week. Our Rentals page is undergoing a heavy update.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Resumes next week. Our Sale page is undergoing an update.

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

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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=xsmweeklynews>

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

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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.

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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. AA To Restart Charlotte Nonstops, SXM Airport Overnighting

American Airlines has agreed to make significant changes to its St. Maarten scheduling, which should make getting to the island much easier and much faster for AA passengers from across the country. The only question is when the changes will become effective.

According to an agreement reached between the airline and the island in recent meetings, the airline will be reinstating its nonstops from Charlotte. It will also bring back its late night flight to SXM from Miami; that flight will overnight on the island, enabling an early morning departure from SXM — and same-day connections to much of the rest of the country.

We've seen no information about when the airline might reinstitute reasonably priced nonstops from New York. Currently, AA flights from New York are vastly overpriced and require connections. JetBlue has daily nonstops from JFK and has had them for months, at comparatively reasonable pricing.

We would expect a gradual softening of prices through the summer and especially in the fall. As always, we'll keep you posted on airlift developments from all US and Canadian airlines serving SXM. *Please see story 3.*

2. Crown Weather's Hurricane Update Due By Wed.

Crown Weather Services chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown says he will complete the April update of his 2018 Atlantic/Caribbean/Gulf hurricane forecast most likely by the middle of this week.

Once he does that, we'll send an immediate Bulletin to our JMB Website Supporters members with details, and we'll post a brief update on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). The complete story will also be published in next week's edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

In his earlier forecast, Rob said he expected activity equal to or possibly greater than that experienced in 2017, a very busy year. There was also significant impact on the US coastline in 2017 and that may persist into 2018 — we'll all know that shortly.

Stay tuned.

3. Major Airport Answers Due This Week

We've had a number of questions concerning SXM Airport to which we've been seeking answers for quite some time. The questions concern when the main passenger terminal will actually be reopening; whether the temporary arrival and departure terminals can withstand hurricane force winds — and if so, how; if and when passengers might expect preclearance to be introduced in SXM; when normal airline schedules and pricing may be reintroduced; when Southwest Airlines may start its service to SXM; and more. We have high expectations of being able to get the answers to all these questions this week. When we do, we'll publish them in the following addition of *SXM Weekly News* — hopefully next Monday.

4. Airport's New Traffic Pattern Explained Simply, Clearly

When the airport recently changed the traffic pattern for arriving and departing passengers, it sent out a rather complex informational illustration. Unfortunately, the illustration raised more questions than it answered.

Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin of Island92 radio decided to interview Audrey St. Luce Jack, the airport's information officer, and he ran that interview on our Everything SXM Facebook site. We've since moved the interview to the files area of that site where you can listen to it at your convenience. It gives you a clear perspective on how the new traffic pattern works. Here is [the link](#) directly to the interview.

5. Airport Plane Viewing Changes Won't be Quick

When a tourist from New Zealand was killed by jet blast outside SXM Airport last July, there were many calls to make serious changes to safeguard the lives of tourists.

For years, tourists have congregated along the fence only a couple of hundred feet from where the jets take off. There, they were routinely pummeled by high winds from jet exhaust which occasionally blew people across Beacon Hill Rd., causing injuries.

The death of the woman brought forth calls from government to build a new road along the south side perimeter of the airport serving Beacon Hill and the Alegria area. Locals decried the idea, saying it would aggravate their already bad drive times through the area during late afternoon rush hour traffic.

Under the plan, Beacon Hill Rd. by Maho beach was to be closed, and the fence moved farther away from the end of the runway. Though not perfect, the plan seemed likely to reduce the likelihood of injuries from jet blast.

Less than two months later, Irma came, taking focus away from any changes near the airport. The government now has no funding for any major changes in this area. Moreover, any new road built along Simpson Bay Beach at the southern perimeter of the airport would likely be destroyed by any significant future hurricane hitting the area. If that were the only road into the area, both police and fire protection would be jeopardized for Beacon Hill, a highly populated residential area.

Bottom line, we don't expect any significant changes in this area anytime soon, if at all.

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+++ Anniversary Sale +++

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is celebrating its
16th Birthday --
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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!

6. 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.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. 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 everythingsxm.com. Check them out: they are being heavily revised this week.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

9. "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](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

**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!

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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 with the Subject "SkyMed." Do it now... this offer could soon disappear.

10. Hotel, Residences Coming With Twin Cupecoy Highrises

Arun Jagtiani, founder and owner of [Island Real Estate Team on SXM](#), our long-time top-recommended SXM real estate agent, is now handling sales of "Fourteen" -- the new twin high-rise development in Cupecoy.

It turns out that the development has two primary features: an upscale hotel in one of the towers offering exquisite views of the area, plus equally upscale residence accommodations in the other tower.

Here are the details from IRETeam::

*"Permits have just been approved for the first major development of 2018 in Sint Maarten. The **Mullet Bay Fourteen Condo / Hotel** will feature two 20 story state of the art buildings with stunning views. The south Tower will feature 70 luxury condos, while the north Tower will be developed into a luxury boutique hotel.*

"Located walking distance to several restaurants and some of the best beaches on the island, this property can easily boast that it is situated at the best location on the island. Construction is expected to begin in July 2018, and

pre-sales have already started. Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of pre-construction discounts being offered for a limited time only...."

Prices from USD\$225K to \$2.295K. See Floor Plans [here](#). For more, contact:

Arun Jagtiani
1 721 586 2626
arunsxm@gmail.com
IRETEAM.COM

Tell them you heard about it in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

11. Firefighter Offers Cupecoy Highrise Firefighting Perspective

A New York City firefighter, who obviously works in a city with an enormous number of high-rises, wrote us with his interesting perspective about the fire safety of the new twin 20-story high-rises soon to be erected in Cupecoy. Our story had expressed some concern about the ability of the equipment in the arsenal of the St. Maarten fire department to fight fires high in such buildings.

Here are his comments:

Firefighter from NYC here. Not sure about Dutch fire codes, but I would reasonably expect by the description/height of the building that it would be of "fireproof construction". This means an enclosed staircase to limit smoke spread, some fire suppression, a standpipe to connect hoses to for upper floors, and fires that "usually" will be confined to the apartment of origin while others above, next to or below remain relatively unaffected.

21 stories can be 200+ feet in the air, and not many ladder apparatus could reach such heights...nor would it have to, as the fireproof construction would enable the residents "shelter in place" in their unaffected apartments. Just an FYI. These codes may or may not apply to Dutch St Maarten, but I would expect that the standard is somewhat similar.

Keep up the good work! Can't wait to get back post-hurricane.
James C

Thanks to James for his input!

12. An Update on Sonesta Maho & Ocean Point

The latest from Sonesta:

"We are in the final stage of planning our reconstruction and re-opening, we would like to soft open at the end of 2018, maybe as early as November/December with Ocean Point and Maho to follow short after, pending further assessment.

"We should have more details to share with general public in about two weeks and will also post some new architectural images soon. We would like to open online bookings towards the end of April."

13. About Our April Fool's Day "Weekly News" Parody

Last Friday, we emailed *SXM Weekly News* readers a parody April Fools' Day edition.

Among other stories, it contained the following (headlines only are shown here). Many of the stories contained a germ of fact, something not all of our readers may have realized. Here's a nugget of additional (real) information on each of the main parody stories:

Spoiler Alert: If you have not yet read our parody issue, skip down to story #14 to get it. You can then return to this newsletter.

1. UNA Airlines To Serve SXM Starting April 1

Before writing this story, we made sure there is no airline called UNA. The story was based on charter airline flights carrying nudists -- and yes, that has actually happened. The telephone number in the story contained a real 800 area code — 869 — but it's not a Toll-free area code, it's used by St. Kitts and Nevis. The seven digits in the telephone number do not reflect an actual number that's in service

2. Elon Musk, Richard Branson To "Ice-Out" Hurricane Seasons

Although to our knowledge neither Elon Musk nor Richard Branson has any plans to haul Icebergs to the Caribbean to cool water temperatures and prevent hurricanes, the idea of towing mammoth Icebergs from Antarctica to another location is not new. In fact, within the last couple of years, when California was suffering a severe drought, there was talk about towing Icebergs off the California coast and using the ice melt as a source of water there. Using Icebergs to cool Caribbean waters and prevent hurricanes has not, to our knowledge, actually been tried or proposed. Who knows, maybe it's practical.

Lead Story: China, South Korea Offer Competing Bids to Buy Dutch Side

To our knowledge, South Korea has not been involved in any kind of investments in SXM. However, China has been, and there has actually been talk from China about building tunnels through mountains to help SXM traffic — and as well, China still does intend to build a convention center/hotel/residence on the Dutch side of the island and is looking forward to further investment. There is no plan to install a base for rocket ship tours to the moon, and the island's expansion to the size of Cuba to our knowledge is not actually being contemplated.

8. New Dutch Side Coalition's Promise: Kumbaya Album

The Dutch side of the island does have a lot of political parties, but the number we suggested in our story was fictitious. So is the notion that the parties would ever issue any kind of music album, let alone Kumbaya.

9. Temporary Miniaturization To Solve SXM's Traffic Woes

The idea of temporary miniaturization, at this moment, is pure fiction, though most likely at some point it could be done. The idea came as an offshoot to the ideas of teleportation, dematerialization, and rematerialization, all of which have been in space fiction for decades. The grandchildren of today's children may very well wind up going to St. Maarten through teleportation, dematerialization, and rematerialization. Anything is possible...

10. Google "Waymo" Self-Driving Motorcycles to Replace Idiots

It is factually accurate that Google Waymo self driving motor vehicles do, in fact, exist and are in testing in Tempe, Arizona, among other places. They should not be confused with Uber self driving vehicles such as the one also in Tempe that was recently involved in a fatal accident with a pedestrian. It is not a far stretch to postulate that self driving motorcycles, trucks, buses, etc. could be coming.

11. Next Regatta To Happen In Your Home, Thanks To Holographic 3D TVs

Technology that will be introduced in the next two or three decades has largely already been invented. We won't get into details here, but don't be surprised if 10 years from now ultra high definition holographic three-dimensional television platforms could wind up turning your living room or family room into an amazing stage.

12. Newest SXM Construction: 3D Printing

3D printing is now being used to create some replacement human bones and joints, and it will become more widely used in the future. There is no reason NOT to assume that 3D construction will become an economical source for building materials or perhaps even buildings at some point in the future.

13. SXM Dump Gets Huge Grant From Fabreze; Resort Hotel Coming

This story actually took the Fabreze ads mentioned in the story and ran wild with them.

14. Sargassum Seaweed To Be Converted to Toilet Paper and Pet Food

We contacted Topper, of Toppers Restaurant, and his wife/partner Melanie to give them a heads up that we were writing an article about him being involved in a company to produce toilet paper and pet food from Sargassum seaweed. They thought it was hilarious. There is interest in converting Sargassum seaweed into fertilizer, but as far as we know there are no active plans to turn it into toilet paper or pet food, which were the suggestions in the article.

15. Island Iguanas a Nuisance, Restaurants to Serve Them

Iguana soup is a real thing, not just the name of a Jimmy Buffett album. It's regarded as something of a delicious delicacy by many people throughout the Caribbean. Iguanas currently on the island are an invasive species. They escaped when a shipping container dropped and broke open at the airport a number of years ago. They crowded out native iguana species and really do eat many island vegetable gardens (as do wild monkeys). There are plenty of them on the island, but there is no organized effort underway to have them served in most restaurants. If you ask

around quietly, though, you just might be able to taste iguana soup on a future visit to the island.

16. Dutch Side to Build Border Wall; Says "French Side Will Pay"

This story was actually suggested by a reader; we ran with it.

17. Get Your Vehicle Pass To The St. Barths Tunnel

There is no St. Bart's tunnel — just as there is no Cape Cod Canal tunnel or St. Martin to Anguilla tunnel, even though tunnel passes from Cape Cod across the Cape Cod Canal had been sold for years on Cape Cod. Or is there a secret tunnel to Anguilla? Stay tuned.

14. Download Our April Fool's Parody

It's right here, as a PDF: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2018APRILFOOLSWN.pdf>

More news follows this message.

Introducing Our

JMB Website Supporters

+++ Anniversary Sale +++

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In Addition To Those 300 Discounts
& Other Benefits,
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helps keep

SXM Weekly News
Publishing for You Every Week!

Please Join Today!

15. Golf on SXM: Mullet Bay Golf Course Update

Barry H. writes:

I played the course twice during our March visit. Some info:

1. You need to drive up to "The Towers " to pay and get your cart.
2. For 18 holes, with cart & rental clubs, the rate was \$95. The fee to play 9 holes was \$80 / and you can play extras.
3. After securing your cart, players must ride across the back nine to pick up your clubs (at the shed) and arrive at the first Tee.
4. The condition of the golf course is no better or worse than usual. Along several fairways the rough has been allowed to grow. You may lose some balls that would normally be retrieved.
5. Be advised that there is a water cooler on the 14th Tee, but no cups. You may want to bring a bottle to hydrate & refill at the cooler.
6. If you have enjoyed this experience in the past, you will enjoy it now.
7. Special note... the Beer concession, on the beach along the 16th fairway, is open; and it is like an oasis in the desert.
8. I have always found that the layout of this golf course outweighs the lack of improvements. The view at the 15th Tee box is worth the price of admission.

Thanks to Barry for this info.

16. St. Maarten Zoo / Park Closes Permanently

We had heard rumor of this so we checked with Barbara Cannegeiter about it. She has confirmed that the Zoo wasn't insured, it was severely damaged by Irma, and many of the animals have been transferred to the zoo in Curacao. It was sad; Barbara and others had waged a 26-year battle to keep the Zoo running.

You can see pictures of the Zoo, later known as "Park," [here](#).

17. JMB Anniversary Sale Begins!

JMB Website Supporters was founded 16 years ago, in April, 2002, after a month of testing. And JMB Communications was formed in June, 1990, almost 28 years ago: so it's time to celebrate with one of our most popular sales of the year:

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

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

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

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

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

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

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. 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 and he'll be happy to answer all your questions.

New Bonuses now in effect; see preceding story.

20. 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 (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](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com) or our broader [jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com), with even more services. Hosting info is at [jmbwebhosting.com](http://www.jmbwebhosting.com).
- Thank you, as always, for your support.

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

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.

Your Business
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www.websitesthatworkusa.com

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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsexm.com/secret

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

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsexm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsexm.com.

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

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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact **support@jmbcommunications.com**

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

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

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

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