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Vol. 2, #1152 --- Monday, May 21, 2018
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



[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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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored send-only email address.
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at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 306,000 people around the world...**

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

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:

- USA Today Gives SXM Huge Publicity
- Bad News from Ocean Club
- Update from Club Orient Naturist Resort
- Sonesta Ocean Point / Maho Announce Reopening
- Tropics Bear Watching
- Copa Air Returning to SXM
- Horny Toad Guest House Rebuilding Underway

- **Details on Our Three Newest JMB Member Discounts**
- **Dump Fire Again; "Must Be Fixed"**
- **The Story of Big Black Dick Rum**
- **Our SXM Party at Isola for JMB Members Only**
- **Busby's, Daniel's, Great House For Sale**
- **Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed**
- **Facts You Need to Know About SkyMed**
- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**

25 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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 10/27/2018 11/3/2018 Week 43 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Villa's, B side. Jr. Suite. 502B, two queen beds, balcony, dressing room, full bath, kitchenette, with coffee maker, toaster, microwave, sink, refrigerator, plates, glassware, utensils. Beautiful ocean and Marina view. Large pool below, with swim up bar, oceanfront. End of bldg, closest to beach. Restaurants, gym, bakery, coffee shop, shopping in lobby. \$800 OBO Karen. 774-264-1267 Rinkydyl51@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/16/2019 3/23/2019 Week 11 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina This newly renovated 2 Bedroom Deluxe unit right on the Beach (Flamboyant) sleeps 6, has two bedrooms, two baths, wall safes in closets, kitchen, dining area, 2 Murphy beds, living room, free Wi-Fi, flat screen TVs, and two large balconies overlooking the beautiful Caribbean. Resort has restaurants, casino, gym, tennis courts, mini market, bakery, Olympic pool and swim up bar, Marina, water sports and a beautiful beach \$21,000 Greg. 413-454-4548 gliitt@comcast.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

This Week's Stories

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

"Like" Our ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Site:](#)



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

1. Tropics Bear Watching
2. Download NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart
3. Copa Air Returning to SXM
4. Current SXM Weather Info (Updated)
5. Guaranteed Lowest Rates For Hotel Rooms / Car Rentals

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

6. Bad News from Ocean Club
7. Update from Club Orient Naturist Resort
8. Sonesta Ocean Point / Maho Announce Reopening
9. Horny Toad Guest House Rebuilding Underway
10. Correction Regarding Divi Little Bay Beach Resort
11. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Villa Rentals Available

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](#)

12. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates
13. Details on Our Three Newest JMB Member Discounts

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

14. USA Today Gives SXM Huge Publicity
15. Dump Fire Again; "Must Be Fixed"
16. Roland Bryson, "Pa Ben," Passes Away
17. The Story of Big Black Dick Rum
18. Our SXM Party at Isola for JMB Members Only
19. Busby's, Daniel's, Great House For Sale
20. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed
21. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
22. Facts You Need to Know About SkyMed
23. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika
24. Enter Our "Summertime" Vacation Giveaway...
25. 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
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Tropics Bear Watching

The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1, but some rumblings of tropical activity already have been heard, as reported here. Conditions are evolving from La Niña to neutral, presumably on their way to El Niño. Consequently, hurricane activity next year may slower — but this year is expected to be close to last year in terms of activity, much of which may be front loaded.

For complete, authoritative information on what's happening and where, we urge people who are in hurricane-prone areas to see Rob Lightbown's CrownWeather.com and subscribe. We also have extensive weather information, including watches and warnings as well as many satellite images, in the Weather Center on our everythingSXM.com site.

See other articles in this section for more tropical weather information.

Here are storm names for 2018:

Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie, William.

2. Download NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to come by. The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded, as noted in the previous article — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

3. Copa Air Returning to SXM

International Panamanian airline Copa Air resumes weekly flights to SXM next month. With service to a number of US cities, Copa supplies surprisingly competitive fares from the US to SXM via Panama — or at least that has been the case in the past. If Copa serves your area, consider them for connecting flights to SXM.

More on their service resumption is [here](#).

4. Current SXM Weather Info (Updated)

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

Changing Your Email Address?

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

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

6. Bad News from Ocean Club

In a message to its timeshare owners last week, Ocean Club delivered some rather stunning news. Here is the text of their announcement:

The Ocean Club (OC) team regrets not having been able to inform you since the last letter. However, the circumstances for OC and Sint Maarten are challenging since the passing of hurricane Irma. Our team has worked tirelessly to resolve the issues regarding your membership. In this letter we set out the current situation of the OC in detail, announce expected short-term solutions and explore OC's future.

The OC's property has been assessed for damages by an architectural engineer and by the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure (in Dutch: "VROMI"). The conclusion is that the various buildings on the property are damaged beyond repair. Furthermore, the current building codes prevent rebuilding the structures in the same manner. The OC cannot be rebuilt to its former state.

In addition, the OC consists of different plots and buildings which are owned by various owners (and not by the operator of the time-share program). The original developer of the OC has sold the real property over the years to various private and corporate real estate investors. The OC team has spent considerable time and resources on mapping the ownership structure and engaging the various owners to explore possibilities of redeveloping the property for its members. To date, despite ongoing talks, no comprehensive agreement was finalized.

Redevelopment is further being hampered by severe insurance complications. Full insurance coverage is lacking and/ or denied by the insurer due to structural issues laid bare by the passing of hurricane Irma. The OC team stresses that to date no property insurance payments have been received by the owners of the real property. Furthermore, there is no expectation of these insurance issues being settled anytime soon – in any case such claims will at most cover the costs of the VROMI ordered demolition and debris removal. [Emphasis added by *Weekly News*.]

While the current OC team has 'inherited' these issues (it has only been involved since early 2017), it is strongly committed to safeguarding the interests of its members. As you know other timeshare operators have assessed members for hefty sums to be able to pay for fixed costs and clean up while the resorts remain closed. As we believe this to be unfair to our members, we are currently incurring operational losses to be able to devise the best solutions for you.

We are aware that redevelopment will take considerable time and therefore we explored the options of membership migration. To that effect we are proud to announce that we are about to finalise a 'membership migration'-deal with a reputable timeshare-operator. Members will be offered to exchange their membership with us for one with them. The OC team has put a lot of effort in negotiating a high value proposition for our members – we are pleased that members accepting the 'membership migration' will save their investment and experience great vacations again within short.

We kindly request you to send an email with updated contact and membership details (including unit and week number) to migration@oceanclubsintmaarten.com if you are interested in exploring the membership migration offer.

From those members committed to stay involved with Sint Maarten, we request patience. Seen the issues detailed in this letter, Sint Maarten's dire economic situation and the subsequent lack of interested investors, redevelopment will take, as mentioned earlier, a lot of time: at least 3 years. We are exploring scenarios for redevelopment with various stakeholders but have not been able to secure tangible commitments.

It has become clear, however, that only a luxurious large-scale hotel/condominium (with limited units available for timeshare-members) will be feasible under the current economic conditions.

The OC team is (yet again) trying to safeguard our member's (sic) interests in this scenario – we will fight hard to ensure that your initial investment in OC membership will be compensated for when purchasing new membership.

Unfortunately, it has transpired that obtaining membership in any kind of redevelopment will carry a price-tag of at least several thousand dollars because of a better experience, higher standards and improved facilities. This can however not be guaranteed at this moment.

The OC team is launching a newsletter to provide periodical updates – we kindly request our members to opt-in by sending an email with updated contact and membership details (including unit and week number) to newsletter@oceanclubsintmaarten.com.

We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Best regards,
The Ocean Club Team

Jeff Comments: We are very much interested in hearing ocean club timeshare owner comments about these developments. We be interested in publishing your comments in a future issue of SXM Weekly News. Please address them to susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject Ocean Club.

7. Update from Club Orient Naturist Resort

Club Orient published this update this past week:

Dear Club Orient Friends,

It's been too long since we have updated you on our progress on the re-building program. Our apologies, but we have been waiting thinking we would have something more definitive in another day or week. Sometimes we do and more often, we don't.

But, we cannot continue to leave a vacuum, as many people who are not correctly informed are eager to fill it with something they heard from someone, who knows someone and they said.... Anyway, here is the correct up to date information as it stands today.

The homeowners of Club Orient recently met in Orlando for three days at Cypress Cove and expressed overwhelming support for the rebuilding efforts. Copro continues to be hampered by the insurance company in Paris, which even though their expert declared Club Orient a total loss, have still not issued a check!

Why? We, as well as many other businesses, cannot get a straight answer. The insurance companies still owe millions of Euros to a large number of companies on St. Martin. Copro was told that they would have the money by May 1 and still, nothing has been received.

That does not mean everyone is sitting on their hands. The architect and contractor retained by Copro have a detailed set of plans and have prepared all the necessary applications for submission, as soon as the funds are received.

Both the Copro and OBC (Orient Beach Club) are still planning to have 30 to 50 rooms available to rent by this winter. We have not forgotten our promise to allow a head start on reservations, for all of you who have kindly donated or allowed us to retain your deposits. You're the best!

How long for the total repair/rebuild? We currently estimate about eighteen months from start to finish. ALL the new units will be built with reinforced concrete instead of wood. We also intend to address several issues that will make the facilities more modern and efficient, including bringing in fiber optic cable for internet and phones.

Will we be adding additional rooms of more than one story? The current plan is to at some point, take the land behind the current Club Orient and be able to increase our available number of rooms. Plus, the government now

requires us to have "safe areas" which are more than 3 meters above the ground, in the event of another hurricane. As Club Orient is below sea level and most of the damage to us was caused by water, not wind, we have to provide one or more concrete structures to house people. This will be done without changing the basic layout and ambiance of the Club Orient which we all love.

We have also had several requests from many of you wishing to buy units from owners, who have for various reasons, decided not to be part of the rebuilding. If you are interested, please contact Alan at ClubOrientSales@comcast.net. Alan is a long-time homeowner who handles all the resales at Club Orient and is very knowledgeable about all aspects involved.

So, thank you again for the continued support and the very positive emails, many of which we share with our employees, at the monthly meetings we have to keep them informed of our progress.

8. Sonesta Ocean Point / Maho Announce Reopening

Sonesta Ocean Point resort, the recently opened luxurious property at the end of the Maho Peninsula near the airport, is set to reopen far sooner than most people expected -- this November. Even more surprising, the entire Sonesta Maho high-rise is currently expected to open during February.

Here is [the full story](#) from the *SXM Daily Herald*.

9. Horny Toad Guest House Rebuilding Underway

The venerable moderately priced Horny Toad guest house on Simpson Bay beach is continuing its repair and renovation program and is expected to reopen later this year. Here is [their information](#). We'll publish more as soon as it becomes available.

10. Correction Regarding Divi Little Bay Beach Resort

We reported last week on the announced reopening of Divi little Bay beach resort. We said the resort suffered "comparatively little damage" -- a comment which could be taken multiple ways and might cause confusion, for which we apologize.

We were comparing Divi's damage to that suffered by the three buildings which ultimately had to be demolished at Simpson Bay Resort; Ocean Club, which was completely destroyed by the storm; and Summit Resort Hotel, also completely destroyed by hurricane Irma.

But the fact was that Divi also suffered very serious damage, requiring expenditures in the millions for repairs. We in no way meant to trivialize what happened there. The resort did a remarkable job to get its renovations planned and largely completed in time for its recent reopening, as did its neighbor, Belair Beach Resort. If our article caused any confusion, we apologize.

See more about [Divi Little Bay](#) in SXM here.

11. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Villa Rentals Available

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, and Atrium Resort, with Simpson Bay and Oyster Bay Beach following quickly -- 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 were heavily revised during each of the last two weeks and will be updated again this week.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

12. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

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

We now offer about 300 discounts (including some now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming months as we continue to roll out a number of entirely new discounts and benefits.

We recently started adding new discounts and benefits. See next story, Please stay tuned; special messages will be sent to all JMB Website Supporters members as more new benefits are rolled out.

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

13. Details on Our Three Newest JMB Member Discounts

The latest car rental company to join our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program is Next Level Car Rental, which you may have seen advertised on the electronic billboard at Toppers restaurant in Simpson Bay.

It, like Leisure Car Rental, also a local company, is also female owned. You will be able to find more information about the discount that Next Level offers by logging into our members-only Secret Website and checking Car Rentals in the Discounts Master Index. It's now live (effective 6 pm PDT Monday May 21).

Ray's Jewelry, one of our newest sponsors, also is offering something very special for JMB Website Supporters members; see "Jewelry" in the Discounts Master Index on our members-only Secret Website for details on exactly what Ray's is offering.

Cigar Mac offers special deals on larger purchases of Cuban cigars for our JMB members. Details are in the new "Cuban Cigars" section of our Discounts Master Index.

Again, all of this is live effective 6 pm PDT Monday May 21).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

SkyMed Is On Sale:

**Get SkyMed's
Lowest Daily Cost
SkyMed Ultimate
Medical Evacuation Membership,
SkyMed's best coverage.**

**Details on
What SkyMed Is
and How It Works**

are in stories 20 and 22.

Got questions? Call
Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281
or email Jeff.Berger@skymed.com
with the Subject "SkyMed."

Do it now,
before you need it.

14. **USA Today** Gives SXM Huge Publicity

USA Today, the nation's newspaper, and the USAtoday.com website are powerhouses at disseminating news, sports, weather, travel, and more news and information across the USA.

This past week, USAToday.com published a major article on economical summer travel in the Caribbean, including information about SXM. See [the entire article](#) -- read it to the end.

We are grateful to *USA Today* and their chief Caribbean correspondent, Melanie Reffes, for mentioning our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com, which is a major source of island information and discounts across the island for everything people do while visiting.

SXM should be especially grateful because of the added circulation this news achieves, since it is syndicated by USA Today to many of the nation's leading newspapers and many television stations, which publish the story on their websites. *The bottom line is that SXM and some other Caribbean islands will receive tens of millions of impressions as a result of the story, which will be appearing in these newspapers, among others:*

- [Lohud.com](#) (UVM: 878,477)
- [Deming Headlight](#) (UVM: 43,621)
- [Delaware Online](#) (UVM: 1,526,196)
- [Lebanon Daily News](#) (UVM: 77,578)
- [Daily World](#) (UVM: 61,061)
- [Statesman Journal](#) (UVM: 319,019)
- [Tennessean](#) (UVM: 2,127,527)
- [Des Moines Register](#) (UVM: 3,164,982)
- [Star Gazette](#) (UVM: 187,565)
- [Treasure Coast Palm](#) (UVM: 844,772)
- [Indy Star](#) (UVM: 3,166,330)
- [Detroit Free Press](#) (UVM: 11,850,296)
- [Florida Today](#) (UVM: 879,865)
- [Pensacola News Journal](#) (UVM: 438,784)
- [Abilene Reporter News](#) (UVM: 188,025)
- [Democrat & Chronicle](#) (UVM: 1,541,538)
- [Coshocton Tribune](#) (UVM: 47,238)
- [Oshkosh Northwestern](#) (UVM: 191,562)
- [Argus Leader](#) (UVM: 441,997)
- [Times Record News](#) (UVM: 187,761)
- [Marion Star](#) (UVM: 71,902)
- [St. Cloud Times](#) (UVM: 191,827)
- [Iowa City Press-Citizen](#) (UVM: 193,652)
- [Wisconsin State Farmer](#) (UVM: 20,204)
- [Tallahassee Democrat](#) (UVM: 437,289)
- [Central Florida Future](#) (UVM: 51,587)

[Courier & Press](#) (UVM: NA)
[Courier Journal](#) (UVM: 2,120,009)
[The Town Talk](#) (UVM: 185,323)

Note: UVM is Unique Visitors per Month.

15. Dump Fire Again; "Must Be Fixed"

The Dutch side dump was on fire again last weekend (one week ago), right as the State Secretary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands was visiting the island. Raymond Knops reiterated that solving the problem of the dump was a key priority for the island — and he put solving the Sargassum seaweed problem in the same category.

Hopefully there will be more to report on both of these issues soon. They do certainly have the attention of the Kingdom Parliament.

16. Roland Bryson, "Pa Ben," Passes Away

He may well be best remembered by timeshare owners at Oyster Bay Beach Resort, where he has been described as a master storyteller about SXM's history. He has now passed away.

Denicio Wyatte posted: "Our condolences goes out to the family of Roland Bryson 'Paben". St Maarten lost one of its greatest icons. Rest well our dear brother. I hope St Maarten government does the right thing and give the man money they owe him to his family, they should also honor him by taken care of the funeral arrangements and giving him an iconic' funeral..."

LAST CALL:

*******MEMBERSHIP SALE BRIEFLY EXTENDED *******

**because we want to make this offer available
to everyone joining us through *USA Today*.**

JMB Website Supporters

+++ Anniversary Sale +++

Must End This Friday, May 25

JMB Website Supporters
is celebrating its
16th Birthday --
but you get the Presents!

**Get More Than 300 SXM Discounts
and Other Benefits Through Our Exclusive
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**

**Join, Renew, or Reinstate Today; Must End Fri.
5/25:**

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

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

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

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

**JMB Membership Reinstatements:
One year, \$35; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$99**

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

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

SXM Weekly News
Publishing for You Every Week

Please Join Today

17. The Story of Big Black Dick Rum

For those who have never heard of it — and, in fact, for those who have — Big Black Dick is a very well known Caribbean rum.

But, how did get that name? Here is [the story](#), from the source. Whether it's true, however, will forever be a mystery.

18. Our SXM Party at Isola for JMB Members Only

This is the last call to JMB Website Supporters members who wish to attend our members-only party late this month at Marco Ferrante's Isola Restaurant in Simpson Bay next to Hollywood Casino.

We sent an email to all JMB members last week advising them how to reserve space at this upcoming event for the member and his/her spouse. We have a maximum number of 50 people who can attend this members-only function and we are closing in on that number now. If you are a JMB Website Supporters member and expect to be on the island at the end of this month, please see the email sent to all JMB members with event information and how to preregister. Preregistration is required.

This event will give you the opportunity to meet and schmooze with many other JMB Website Supporters members at a restaurant now managed by long-time SXM restaurateur Marco Ferrante. A number of special appetizers will be served and there will also be a cash bar and soothing live background music. This event is already approaching sellout status so if you are a JMB Website Supporters member who will be on the island toward the end of May, check the email we sent you and get your registration done through Susan in our office quickly to avoid disappointment.

19. Busby's, Daniel's, Great House For Sale

The bad news is that the current owners of Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, Daniels by the Sea, and the Great House apartment building on Dawn beach between Oyster Bay Beach Resort and Coral Beach Club have elected not to rebuild those properties following their destruction from hurricane Irma. The property is now offered for sale; here are the details:

1.3-acre beachfront property on the Northern end of Dawn beach is for sale. This property currently consists of the Great House multi-unit apartment building (currently six apartments plus an office, very heavily damaged by hurricane Irma), plus the property around the Great House AND Mr. Busby's Beach Bar / Daniel's By the Sea, also seriously damaged by Irma. Proven superb locations on the ocean. USD\$7.6-million net (lowest and final). Serious inquiries only: what a Mother's Day / Father's Day present THIS would be! Email jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject BUSBY and I will forward your inquiry to the owners. This is right on the beach....

20. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed

Emergency medical evacuations are payable in cash in advance and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- unless you have a SkyMed membership. SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and where your health insurance actually works. It's available to Americans and Canadians and to ExPats of both countries, taking them home from throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available covering every country around the world except those on the U. S. State Department watch list. SkyMed makes all medical evacuation arrangements and pays for them directly...you just pay for your SkyMed membership.

Here are examples of SkyMed in action:

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed *which arranged and paid for* an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cole Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. *SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.* That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian expat living in SXM or certain other countries.

Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere. Do it today. To learn more, visit www.getskymed.com. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

Please see story 22 for more specifics.

21. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Next Level Car Rental (just joined)

CIGARS HAND-MANUFACTURED ON SXM:

[Das Cigars](#)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS::

[SkyMed International](#) (Scottsdale, Az.)

JEWELERS:

[Little Europe Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

Caribbean Gems

Oro Diamante

Ray's Jewelers (just joined)

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES:

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Site*.

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Simpson Bay Resort

RESTAURANTS:

[IZI](#)

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Site*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going

as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Site*.

5/21/18

22. Facts You Need To Know About SkyMed

Got questions about SkyMed? Call Jeff directly any weekday at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). Leave a message if he's on the other line, with your phone number and time zone. Some SkyMed info is below and Jeff can answer all your remaining SXM questions. He has been a SkyMed Ambassador for many years.

What it Is: SkyMed is a Scottsdale, Arizona, based medical evacuation membership company. It "Takes You Home" if you're a SkyMed member when you become critically ill or injured while traveling anywhere in the United States (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage, offering services in the rest of the world (except where the U. S. State Department has issued [travel advisories](#)), is available as an option on annual memberships and is included in multi-year "Ultimate" memberships, through SkyMed company GETS, Global Emergency Transport Services. Americans, Canadians, and ExPats living in any of the countries named here are eligible to apply for membership.

What Medical Evacuations Cost Without SkyMed: At the low end, medical evacuation flights aboard private specially-outfitted and staffed "air ambulances" usually cost anywhere from \$35,000 to \$70,000 *payable in cash in advance, before anything happens*. Prices from Mexico and some distant parts of the world can cost far more. For SkyMed members, SkyMed arranges and pays for all the services it offers. There are no claims forms, no deductibles, no pre-payments for services by you with you waiting for SkyMed reimbursements -- no hassles. You make one phone call to SkyMed and SkyMed handles everything. *Medical evacuations are typically never covered by your health insurance policies.*

What it Covers: A complete, highly thoughtful spectrum of important evacuation-related services. Download the complete list with descriptions [here](#).

How It Works: As you would in any medical emergency anywhere, get to a hospital right away when you become critically ill or injured. You can call SkyMed at their toll-free number (or collect from outside the US) when you first get to the hospital if you like, to make us aware of the situation. Once the medical staff has given you emergency care, call SkyMed from the hospital so we can talk with those handling the member's care. Critically ill or injured members must be stable for medical evacuation air travel to occur safely. SkyMed keeps you informed every step of the way, and SkyMed arranges and pays for the ambulance from the hospital to the airport; the medevac jet to your destination city; and the ambulance from that airport to the hospital. We will already have obtained and transferred your records to the destination hospital, where a bed will be waiting for you and a team will be ready to help you. We take you home where your support system is and where your health insurance works. All you pay is your SkyMed membership fee; SkyMed arranges and pays for all the services it provides for you.

JMB Website Supporters Members Get Discounts & Bonuses: Discounts are available on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. Ask Jeff for details; see the end of this story. Bonuses available give you additional years on your JMB membership when you buy a new multi-year SkyMed membership from us or upgrade a SkyMed membership bought from us to multi-year. After buying, simply notify support@jmbcommunications.com of your SkyMed purchase and you get an equal number of years added to your JMB membership.

Many Special Features:

- a) SkyMed Takes You Home®. Others in their fine print say they take you home or to the nearest appropriate facility, at their option; that could be thousands of miles from home.
- b) No age limit to apply. No age limit for services.
- c) Pre-existing conditions covered in full after only 90 days for one-year and longer memberships, and immediately for short-term memberships.
- d) Guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or health changes (applies to annual and multiyear memberships).
- e) No membership price increases due solely to advancing age or declining health. You pay what everyone pays.
- f) Ten-year price guarantee for five-year Ultimate SkyMed memberships: When you apply for a five-year SkyMed Ultimate membership and indicate "renew automatically" on your application, you are guaranteed the same price upon renewal that you paid when joining. The SkyMed Ultimate, which is prepaid for five years at inception, currently

offers more features and benefits than SkyMed's annual memberships (see What it Covers, above) at a highly advantageous annual cost. SkyMed Annual memberships have no price guarantee (though their price has been unchanged for several years). Jet fuel price spikes can affect the cost of Annual memberships. But with the Ultimate's 10-year price guarantee, you're solid no matter what.

Where to Get Answers To Your Questions: Call SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger any daytime or evening at 508-747-8281. He can answer all your questions and even complete an application with you in about 10 minutes. Often, you'll have SkyMed's reply in one or two business days. You can also email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com or jeff@jmbcommunications.com (with the subject SkyMed); please include your phone number and area code.

SkyMed Takes You Home®: What else matters?

23. Restaurant of the Week: IZI

IZI Italian Restaurant was the brainchild of long-time SXM restaurateur David Foini, who had developed and owned La Gondola at Atlantis Casino prior to launching IZI.

IZI offers some of the finest Italian dining anywhere -- and IZI's upbeat, contemporary style gives the dining experience there an added kick. David is a perfectionist. Here you'll see him watching over every aspect of the culinary experience, making sure everything is done exactly as it should be. Exemplary service and divine dining are the results.

IZI has won our Everything SXM Award of Excellence many times. Go: you will not be disappointed. Tell them Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News* sent you.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 5/21/18) David is back and the restaurant has reopened. Now open for lunch as well.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 5/14/18) Avantika is open. SXM's best Thai.

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 4/30/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 4/9/18) Reopened as Cafe Spiga, new menu; redesigned; also now serving lunch. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

24. 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 June, 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 will 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....

25. 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. Back issues are expected to be updated (at long last) this very week.

[Get The Current Low Price](#)
[on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)
[and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.](#)
[That's a 10-year price guarantee.](#)
[More benefits... **same price.**](#)

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

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 8/21/17)

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

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

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

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

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