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Vol. 2, #1155 --- Monday, June 11, 2018
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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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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You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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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:

Emailed versions only

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Emailed versions only

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:](#)



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"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=sxmweeklynews>

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

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

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Report: WestJet Narrowly Averted SXM Disaster

In March 2017 in bad weather, a WestJet 737 aircraft approaching SXM Airport on a flight from Toronto apparently mistook the Sonesta Maho Hotel for the airport runway and started approaching the hotel at normal landing speed and at very low altitude. Only when the aircraft's terrain proximity warning device told the flight crew to pull up did they realize they were in trouble, just 40 feet above the water. They executed a "missed approach," pulled up, and 45 minutes later landed successfully.

The incident was widely reported. We spoke with an SXM resident who was also a frequent flyer aboard that flight. He and others characterized it as terrifying since they knew the plane was far lower than normal.

At the time, and within a few days of the incident, we published still pictures and video (mainly on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#)) showing how low the plane was. WestJet shrugged it off, saying that criticisms were sensationalist journalism and that the incident was not even reportable.

However, Canadian aviation authorities quickly became aware of what happened and launched an investigation. Those authorities just issued their report last week. It concluded that bad weather contributed to what could have been a catastrophic accident caused in part by the pilot misconstruing the Sonesta Maho beach hotel as the runway, the airport using low intensity lighting instead of higher intensity lighting during the bad weather, and the airport allegedly allowing the flight to approach the airport despite what it apparently knew was poor visibility.

The report also said that the incident should have been reported at once by WestJet.

What follows are [a broadcast news report from CBC](#) about the government report on the WestJet flight, plus [the full report](#) itself. This is another [news report](#) on the incident.

Please see the following [related material](#).

2. Should SXM Airport Shut Down in Bad Weather?

SXM Airport is a busy facility, and clearly it, like other busy airports, would like to keep traffic moving whenever it's possible to do so safely. But when squalls and low clouds hamper visibility of pilots during approach, wouldn't a more conservative approach — temporarily shutting down aircraft approaches — be propitious?

One reason we bring this up is that only about a month after the WestJet incident, an [American Airlines 757 jet](#) executed what was widely regarded as a normal missed approach while attempting to land at SXM Airport -- again in bad weather. Experienced pilots regarded it as a textbook example of great flying and we agree. But we can't help wondering if it might not have been better had this aircraft been circling nearby until the squall hampering visibility on its approach had left the area.

We've already asked some of these questions of airport officials and we will let you know what we hear. Check the link above to the 757 video and see what you think.

3. Two SXM Landings That Should Have Been Delayed

Weather is not the only problem at SXM Airport.

We have long been aware of the existence of a video showing a Corsair 747 jet lumbering onto the only runway at the airport for takeoff even as a KLM 747 was approaching the same runway at the same time for landing. The videographer was understandably incredulous at what he was seeing as, we're sure, were hundreds of other people who witnessed the event — not to mention the cockpit crew of the KLM 747. [That video is here.](#)

That was not the only time something like this happened at SXM Airport. [This is another video](#) showing an American Airlines jetliner taking off as another airliner was getting ready to land on the same runway at SXM Airport. Until Saturday, we had not seen this latter American Airlines video.

We have now asked the airport if procedures since these events occurred have been altered to make repetition impossible.

We'll keep you posted.

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

4. Global Pilot Shortage a Looming Threat

For now, the global economy is humming along and demand for air travel is at all-time highs.

There is [a shortage of pilots](#) now. Commercial aviation will need hundreds of thousands more pilots during the next 20 years. That is putting enormous pressure on the industry; airlines have the capacity to fly more people in more airplanes but it doesn't have the pilots. Increasing jet fuel costs, which have risen 50% in recent months, are also putting pressure on airfares which industry spokespeople are saying are artificially low.

Taken together, all of this means that airfare prices are going up — and that crowded airplanes won't disappear anytime soon.

5. Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

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

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

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

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

6. **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.

7. Sapphire Resort Moving Toward Late '18 Reopening

Sapphire timeshare owners are telling us that their resort is getting its act together. Sapphire -- long one of the poorest-communicating of all SXM timeshare resorts -- is enabling some timeshare owners visiting the island to see the status of their rooms and others, and is already taking reservations for next Winter. We phoned the resort last Friday and tried to contact acting GM Jan Borsje to learn Sapphire's exact reopening date, but he wasn't available. We'll publish it as soon as we can -- but we do know that they are taking Winter 2019 reservations.

8. Got Stuff In A Royal Palm Closet? Maybe Not...

There's a lot of work going on at Royal Palm Resort in Simpson Bay. But based on anecdotal comments from timeshare owners, there are some problems as well -- particularly regarding how timeshare owner property stored in "closets" is being, shall we say, safeguarded.

A timeshare owner writes the following:

"...The construction supervisor took us up to our closet.... Well.....lots of stuff was already missing, including a VCR, boombox CD player (both in original packaging), some tools, and (surprise - dare we say), all the liquor stored on installed shelving.

"The crew supervisor stated they were just starting the closets in our region of the building (some, we noticed, were stripped clean), and they were under orders to dispose of EVERYTHING immediately - NO 'placing stuff in storage room for duration of construction.' He did mention that 'some of the Haitian workers were sending clothing back to Haiti.' Of course, all of our clothing, shoes, sundries, games, sports gear, cooking utensils, etc. were being disposed.

"There are going to be a lot of furious owners. Do we now assume that the closet system will disappear? How can we possibly trust Diamond/Royal Palm?"

9. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Villa Rentals Available

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, Simpson Bay Resort, with 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 everything.sxm.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

10. 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. 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](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

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11. Anthony Bourdain in SXM: As Good As It Gets

For Anthony Bourdain, the world traveler extraordinaire featured on CNN, St. Maarten was a much welcomed escape. Sadly, Mr. Bourdain passed away late last week, a victim of suicide.

[This video](#) is from a Bourdain visit to SXM several years ago: you may well see some very familiar faces / places.

12. Would-Be Robber Shot at Jump-Up Casino

One day last week, some would-be robbers entered Jump Up casino after midnight, allegedly intending to use their guns to take some of the casino's money.

An off-duty police officer quickly noticed what was going on and fatally shot one of the would-be robbers. The other alleged would-be robbers quickly escaped. One casino employee was seriously injured in the gunfire.

We reported on this during the week on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). Although many tourists have noticed Jump Up casino in their travels near the Eastern end of Front Street, Philipsburg, we don't believe it's a destination used by many tourists. We will continue to keep you aware of the investigation.

13. VI Official Warns: Stay Away From Nagico

An official in the United States Virgin Islands has warned citizens there they are not to do business with St. Maarten-based Nagico Insurance, which the official alleges is not licensed to do business in the Virgin Islands but is doing business there anyway. Nagico is denying that it does business where it is not licensed.

The Virgin Islands is also said to have ordered Nagico to pay any and all claims submitted by Virgin Islands policyholders for damages from hurricanes Irma and Maria regardless of whether those policies were sold legally, and it is further asking everyone who has a Nagico policy in the US Virgin Islands to call a phone number it supplied to report what it considers unlicensed sales.

Here is [the accusation](#) by the US Virgin Islands and here is Nagico's [reply](#). Nagico has been the butt of intense criticism from policyholders in St. Maarten who have accused the company of dawdling on the payment of claims, nickel and diming policyholders, and not paying what policyowners say are fully justified, fully insured claims.

14. SHTA's Vision for SXM 2025

The St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association, better known as SHTA, lobbies for better care and feeding of SXM's all-important hospitality industry.

In this [vision for the future](#), SHTA lays out what it feels the island needs to be successful between now and 2025..

As we've reported many times before, SXM spends next to nothing on promotion, while Aruba spends well in excess of USD\$20-million per year. Hopefully, using the half billion dollars which the World Bank has promised in Irma relief funds, SXM will be able to upgrade its infrastructure, fix what needs to be fixed, and help its dominant tourist industry get back on its feet.

But beyond that, it must communicate everything that SXM has to offer in a serious, cohesive, long-term promotional effort. That kind of investment will reap big dividends — but the damage to the island's economy that will be self-

inflicted if it doesn't make this kind of investment is not something the people of SXM should ever be forced to endure.

15. Dump Problem Getting VROMI Attention

VROMI is, essentially, an island version (on steroids, figuratively) of what back-home would be called the DPW.

The Dutch side's perennially mountainous and occasionally fuming dump is getting close attention now from VROMI, the government organization tasked to solve the dump problems.

We're not sure this says anything with deep meaning to tourists, but in any case it is evidence that the island is starting to move in the direction of a solution. What follows is from a news release about the dump meeting.

The Ministry of VROMI hosted a waste forum last week Thursday, which was moderated by Mr. Jan Beaujon. The forum, which carried the theme, "No time to waste," attracted a full house of attendees at the government administrative building. The Honorable Minister of VROMI, Mr. Miklos Giterson, welcomed attendees and encouraged their participation in the pressing matter to solve the "smoking monster," which has long haunted the progress of Country St. Maarten.

The forum included presentations and discussions with the aim of sharing information, gaining insight from stakeholders and potentially reaching a consensus on the way forward in the area of waste management on Sint Maarten. To start the forum and encourage informed discussions, five presentations were held by speakers, whom are involved in various aspects of the issue of waste management.

The first presentation, delivered by the head of the Department of Infrastructure Management, Mr. Claudius Buncamper, focused on the existing situation, with a bird's eye view on physical and financial challenges. Mr. John Morton of the World Bank provided insight into the planned debris removal projects post Hurricane Irma. This included the 'second Irma landfill' and further removal of the boat wrecks in the Simpson Bay Lagoon.

The Public Prosecutor's office contributed to the forum with a presentation by Mr. Jeroen Steenbrink and Mr. Jeroen Kuipers that raised awareness around their legal concerns surrounding the landfill. Roel van de Loo of SPSS consultants, who was contracted by the Infrastructure and Water Ministry of the Netherlands, conducted a quick scan on the waste issues on St. Maarten, including Saba and Statia. As a result he displayed various scenarios on the methods of approach for tackling the waste problems on Sint Maarten. Finally, Ms. Candia Joseph, Country Manager for the Government Accountancy Bureau (SOAB) gave a presentation on the possibilities of establishing a Waste Authority for St. Maarten.

The second part of the forum entailed a Q&A and deliberations on the immediate and long-term needs to alleviate current waste challenges and best practices for future waste management. Various entities contributed their expertise from their respective fields, which included input from Sint Maarten Hospitality and Tourism Association (SHTA), GEBE, the Sint Maarten Police, Environmental Protection in The Caribbean (EPIC), the Public Prosecutor's office, The Social Economic Council, the World Bank and Ministries VSA, Justice, and General Affairs, as well as delegates from the Representation of the Netherlands on Sint Maarten.

Clear consensus was drawn on identifying a new narrative for the approach towards waste, recycling and establishing legislation that could encourage reduction and a change in general behavior. The improved management of current landfill is also regarded as a top priority. The forum sparked necessary action from all participants, which will result in a follow-up meeting to further discuss issues pertaining to the strategic and long-term management of waste.

16. Dawn Beach Club Opens Simpson Bay Office

Dawn Beach Club, the timeshare operation next to and affiliated with the Westin St. Maarten Resort and Casino, (closed since Irma), continues to move toward reopening, and it has now opened offices in the Simpson Bay area. Here is their info on Customer Care activities:

...opened an office in Cole Bay June 6, 2018, with pre-Irma sales team staff. The location is 58 Well Road, just

before Island Water World Marina where a Montessori school used to be. [They noted that] *the restoration is progressing well and there will be completely new units, contemporary furnishings, and modern appliances....*

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17. More Sailing: '19 Heineken Regatta Extended One Day

For several years, Michelle Korteweg headed up operations for the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, which she left a couple of years ago. After a stint with a local St. Maarten activities organization, she returned to yachting several months back as General Manager of the St. Maarten Yacht Club, the organization behind the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. We frankly can't imagine anyone more well-qualified to be in that position and to be spearheading the yacht club's and the island's biggest annual maritime event.

Last week, Ms. Korteweg announced that the Regatta is being extended to include another full day of racing, a decision made in response to requests from Regatta participants.

The full story about the extension of the Regatta is [here](#).

18. Donations for SXM Schools Highlight Tourist's Visit

Jennifer Novak is night operations manager for a major airline serving the Detroit area. Whenever she has an opportunity, she flies on her airline from Boston to SXM. She, like many other tourists, wants to give back to the island. Here is that story, in her own words:

"Our trip to St. Maarten this time was filled with love and hope for the children. So many did not even get to experience a Christmas after Irma so we went loaded with goodies to bring smiles to their faces. We brought 60 backpacks filled with school supplies and treats like beach balls and white boards to Saint Marie Lawrence Middle school. When we arrived at the school the children were delighted! It was such a joy to see their smiling faces and we could feel the excitement as we interacted with them. They have so many hopes and dreams. We made them realize that can all come true. Hope and humanity still exist."

Dozens of JMB Website Supporters members were able to meet Jennifer in her capacity as a Moderator for our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#); she also "moderated" our recent JMB members-only island party at Marco Ferrante's Isola Restaurant next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort.

19. "14" Twin Towers Site Work Underway

Several weeks ago, we ran a story here and photography on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) of twin towers to be built between the St. Maarten golf course and the Starz Casino complex in the Cupecoy area.

The new towers, dubbed "14," will include both condominium residences and luxury hotel accommodations. You can learn much more about the condos from our real estate partner, [Island Real Estate Team](#) headed by Arun Jagtiani. During a recent ride through the area, Island92 morning show host Jeff Sochrin told us he saw quite a bit of activity in site preparation, as construction of the twin condo "14" project gets underway.

We'll have more about this as the project progresses.

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

20. Keep An Eye on New Super U

The Super U market in Marigot has been such a remarkable success that the people behind it bought both Simply markets well before hurricane Irma struck. The original schedule called for a new Super U to be completed late last year at Hope Estate near Grand Case, but for obvious reasons that didn't happen.

Now, heavy construction equipment has moved into the area where the large Simply market used to be in hope estate. Demolition of the former Simply market was completed within the last several weeks. The structure had been very heavily damaged by Irma.

We have a couple of correspondents who are in Grand Case every day, so we'll do our best to keep you aware of what's happening as the new, larger Super U construction gets underway.

21. Nature Foundation Readies for Shark Week

The St. Maarten Nature Foundation on Friday started events related to its Shark week. You'll find much more about this celebration of sharks on the Nature Foundation's Facebook site, [here](#).

At the end of last month, the St. Maarten Nature Foundation relaunched its *save our sharks* program in area waters. Information about that is on the Nature Foundation website, [here](#).

22. Theo Heyliger Sets Up Govt Formation Site

Theo Heyliger is the grandson of Dr. A. C. Wathey who is credited with single-handedly launching SXM decades ago as a major tourism destination. Tourism and politics run in Mr. Heyliger's blood, and he has been involved in island politics for about as long as anyone can remember.

He has been laser-focused on things that matter to tourists — which is why we are running this article, Mr. Heyliger was the architect of the Great Bay Beach Promenade, popularly called the boardwalk; the new airport terminal, launched several years ago; the greatly enlarged cruise and cargo facilities which bear his grandfather's name; and the St. Maarten Lagoon Causeway. He has also been the driving force behind the new St. Maarten Hospital, which should be starting construction in the St. Maarten Medical Center area quite soon. He has also been involved in formation of the new Dutch Side government and has launched an informational website on that topic; you will find it [here](#).

23. Caribbean's Best Beach Restaurants

The bad news is that Busby's and almost all the restaurants on Orient are gone, at least temporarily -- but SXM still made the list in *USA Today*. [Check it out](#).

24. July: Prime Time for SXM Vacations

The weather is as close to perfect as it gets . . . just about everything that is normally open in midwinter is open in July . . . accommodations prices are as low as they ever go . . . you have a pent-up desire to visit SXM: that's why a SXM July Summer vacation is such a great idea. Just do it... much info is on both [our main Everything SXM website](#) and on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). Check them out.

25. SXM Beaches Page Updates Today (Monday 6/11)

On Monday June 11 by noon Eastern you'll see a complete content update of our SXM Beaches page on our main SXM site, [everythingxsm.com](#). Check it out.

26. 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 (story 28).. Questions? Call Jeff at 508-747-8281 during regular business hours EDT.

Please see story 28 for more specifics.

27. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

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](#)

[SXM Cigars](#) (New)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS::

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

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Little Europe Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

Caribbean Gems

Oro Diamante

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

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:

Simpson Bay Resort

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS:

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

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*.

5/28/18

28. 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?

29. Restaurant of the Week: Rum and Peas

If you're one of thousands of fans of Sherman Marten's legendary Canoa Restaurant at the Great House Marina at Oyster Pond, Dutch Side, temporarily offline thanks to Irma, try his Rum and Peas restaurant, uniquely fashioned from former shipping containers in Simpson Bay on the lagoon side of Welfare Road.

Sherman's creativity shows here, too. Great island dishes and much more are here, days and evenings. You'll also find "Lulu" from Mr. Busby's Beach Bar here, long one of the best servers and restaurant managers on the island. Lots of smiles, great service, delicious food, and a unique ambiance. Do it and tell LuLu and Sherman we sent you....

Coming soon: Wasabi Charlie and La Patrona.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Rum & Peas (featured 6/11/18) is the newly iconic island hotspot for island flavors and lots more. It's the creation of Sherman Marten (Canoa) and one of his top managers is Laurel Victor (Lulu from Mr. Busbys). Come soon, you will not be disappointed.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured June 4 2018) is the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/28/18) 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.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 5/21/18) David is back and the restaurant has reopened. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too. Now open for lunch and dinner.

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. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food.

Celine 3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it enters 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.

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 permanently. 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. Closed permanently and for sale.

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, closed permanently, for sale.

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/19/17) Wrecked by Irma. Closed permanently and for sale.

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 Wasabi Charlie. 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.

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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30. Enter Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway (Ends Soon)

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 late 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....

31. 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. Many back issues were added last week (at long last) and the rest are expected to be added this week.

32. Lee's Roadside Grill Demolished

The landlord did it, of course, early on Saturday. It was unannounced as far as we know but it was photographed, and several of the pictures were published on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

Lee's will be back in a different location, late this year (most likely we think) or early 2019. We'll keep you posted.

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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 (Updated 5/25/18)

06/11/18 #V2-1155 6:00 p.m. EDT 6/9/18 9.4

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