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Happy Father's Day

Vol. 2, #1156 --- Monday, June 18, 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 Webite Login

Member News

St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source of Tourist-Oriented News & Information

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

Add **jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com** to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored <u>send-only</u> email address. For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u> 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml
On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

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

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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

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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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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- 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 <u>GROWING LIST of 300+</u> Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Insel Airliner in SXM Emergency Landing

SXM Airport reports that an Insel Air Fokker 50 aircraft with 32 passengers aboard made a safe emergency landing at SXM Airport last week after suffering an engine failure on a flight from SXM to Curacao.

SXM Airport said, "Following a code red call from an Insel Air pilot, the SXM Airport Air Traffic controllers executed its

safety procedures for an emergency landing. The pilot had an indication in the cockpit that the engine was shut down. All the pertinent coordination was done with the San Juan Center to acquire all the necessary information. In efforts to uphold the current contingency plan, there was priority given to the aircraft for its' emergency landing.

"As the passengers and the flight crew disembarked the Insel Air aircraft, it was determined that there was no further cause for alarm. Meanwhile, the Rescue and Firefighting Department officially declared the situation as a code green at approximately 1:26pm, which signified that all was cleared with the occurrence."

There were no injuries in the emergency landing. There was no further word on what caused the engine failure or on the current status of the aircraft.

2. AA Increasing Seats to SXM

American Airlines is ballyhooing an increase in service to SXM — from Charlotte and Miami, not New York.

Here are the details.

2a. Boston - SXM Jet Blue Nonstops Need Your Help

Although JetBlue's home is New York Kennedy, its second largest focus city is Boston, where it is Logan Airport's busiest airline. Soon after JetBlue started flying from Kennedy to SXM a number of years ago, it began seasonal weekend flights from Boston which in season are packed.

JetBlue resumed its daily JFK nonstops to SXM aboard 150-passenger A320 aircraft early this year, offering greater frequency than practically any other airline. But currently, JetBlue flights from Boston to SXM are via connections at JFK.

If you're one of many thousands of individuals who want JetBlue to resume its Boston-SXM nonstop flights, you need to tell that to JetBlue.

Here's how:

Go to JetBlue.com and click their Contact Us link at the top of their home page. Below the top section (which you should ignore) you'll see Write Us an Email; click that.

When you write your email, be nice. For most of you, JetBlue is your favorite airline and you depend on their St. Maarten service. Tell them you're planning to go again, saying when (if you know), and that you very much want to take their nonstop service from Boston, if it is restored, since that service has not been resumed since Irma struck. We suggest you say something to the effect that it was an immensely popular, packed, profitable flight that should be brought back soon for the convenience of JetBlue's many passengers throughout New England -- and it would add yet another high-profit flight to the airline's services from Boston. Include whatever comments you feel are appropriate to JetBlue.

We think weekend nonstops between BOS and SXM could resume right after Thanksgiving -- but we all need to pitch in to make it happen. (Feel free to share this entire edition of *Weekly News* to share this information.)

3. Hurricane Season Stays Quiet

As is usually the case in June, the first few weeks of the 2018 hurricane season have been quiet. Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather (CrownWeather.com) has suggested that there could be some early-season activity but he has not mentioned the Northeast Caribbean as a place where that might happen.

As we have long recommended, if you live in an area ever visited by hurricanes, it is to your advantage to subscribe to Rob's expert private forecasting updates. They are thorough and very authoritative, and they tend to give you an early leg-up on potential storms.

We'll keep you posted.

SATURDAY NIGHT 9/16 AT 9PM EDT

Get Hundreds of SXM Discounts,

Many Other Benefits, & Invitations to all our Island Parties, exclusively for JMB Website Supporters members: Get, Renew, or Reinstate a JMB Membership Today:

New JMB memberships: One year \$44, THREE years \$79 and SIX years \$139 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One yr., \$33; THREE yrs., \$73; 6 yrs., \$123

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

4. Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>, 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 <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, 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.

Download your own NHC Hurricane 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 get.

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 — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

5. <u>Guaranteed Lowest Rates</u> for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Around The World

<u>SkyMed Travel</u> 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. Oyster Bay Beach Resort Reopens

As we reported a couple of weeks ago, Oyster Bay Beach Resort has now reopened. Its opening will be in phases as sections of the resort complete their renovations. Reports from timeshare owners and others visiting the resort within the last couple of weeks include a lot of smiles all the way around. Visitors have started to post pictures on our Everything SXM Facebook Site. Visit our site and use the search window for Oyster Bay Beach Resort to see what our site members are posting and saying.

7. Ocean Club Update Doesn't Answer Biggest Questions

Ocean Club resort in Cupecoy, destroyed by Irma, issued an update about a week ago that was remarkable more for what it didn't say than what it did say.

It offered Ocean Club timeshare owners vacation opportunities at other resorts on other islands but said next to nothing about when ocean club would be rebuilt (if in fact it is going to be rebuilt) and nothing about when it might be

available to its timeshare owners.

We've sent a number of follow-up messages to the developer asking for more information but no one from the resort has responded. Could be they've said what they're going to say....

Here is the text of Ocean Club's message to its timeshare owners:

Member Exclusive

Dear Member,

The Ocean Club (OC) team is proud to officially announce that members will be able to exchange their membership with us for one with Vacation Internationale (VI). The OC team has worked hard to ensure that members are offered a high value proposition – rest assured, our members will continue to enjoy their investment in timeshare and can begin experiencing vacations at choice destinations soon.

VI has over 40 years of experience in providing memorable vacation experiences through its timeshare program. VI is the largest owner-controlled timeshare program in the North America with 45 resorts, including 11 in the Hawaiian Islands (on Kauai, Oahu, Maui and the Big Island), 2 in Mexico (at Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan), and 4 in Florida (at Orlando, Treasure Island, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and Boca Raton). VI pioneered the "points-based" timeshare system, in which points act as "currency" that can be used to book vacations at any VI resort or exchanged through an external exchange program to vacation anywhere in the world. This points-based system is one of the many perks of a VI membership.

Since our last newsletter, we have received many positive reactions from members interested in the membership migration opportunity. However, we have not received responses from all members yet, therefore we are informing you once more of this opportunity – and requesting you to send us an email at migration@oceanclubstmaarten.com with your current contact details. Please make sure you include your unit and week number, along with up-to-date contact information – including telephone number(s), email address(es) and mailing address.

We would like to take this time to remind you that when updates are available they will be communicated through our newsletter. If you have not opted-in or know a member who hasn't please direct a response to newsletter@oceanclubstmaarten.com (please include the contact information mentioned above).

We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kind regards, The Ocean Club Team

8. Royal Palm Resort Closets' Contents Vanish

We published this story last week, but it appears that some Royal Palm timeshare owners may have missed it — so here you go.

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, 3impson 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 everythingsxm.com. Check them out: they were heavily revised during each of the last two weeks and will be updated again this week.

9a. Timeshare Calendar Updated

Our everythingSXM.com website includes hundreds of 2018 and 2019 condo rentals at timeshares across the island, timeshare weeks for sale, and villa rentals.

As of today, Monday, June 18, we have updated the timesharing calendar on the rentals page of our site to cover all years through 2024; for those of you who wish to plan well in advance.

We'd like to thank Simpson Bay Resort for supplying this calendar, which we believe applies to most resorts. Do check with your resort to verify that these dates apply to you.

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

Get Hundreds of SXM Discounts,

Many other Benefits,

& Invitations to all our Island Parties,
exclusively for JMB Website Supporters members:
Get, Renew, or Reinstate a JMB Membership Today:

New JMB memberships: One year \$44, THREE years \$79 and SIX years \$139 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One yr., \$33; THREE yrs., \$73; 6 yrs., \$123

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

11. SXM Airport Part 1: Preclearance Being Built In

Ever since we first published news more than a year ago regarding customs and immigration preclearance at SXM Airport for American tourists headed home, tourists have been asking when it's coming. Then Irma arrived, complicating things.

This is the first of two articles on the future of the airport. The second is expected to to appear next week.

The biggest news to come out of the island over the last week is that reconstruction of SXM Airport will include added space for preclearance facilities for travelers returning to the United States. This will be warmly welcomed by all travelers headed to the US, but particularly by holders of Global Entry cards who are normally whisked through customs and immigration checkpoints.

The only bad news was that the Airport will not be fully operational until sometime in 2020.

More from the *Daily Herald* article on the airport is <u>here</u>. Watch this space next week for a very major story about SXM Airport...

12. New Multihull Regatta Coming Next February

Called the Caribbean Multihull Challenge-St. Maarten, next February, the country will add a new sailing event to its annual calendar of events.

The St. Maarten Yacht Club (SYC) – founders of the Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta in 1980 – announced recently that the premier of Caribbean Multihull Challenge-St. Maarten will be from 8th, 9th, and 10th of February 2019.

The Caribbean Multihull Challenge-St. Maarten - open only to multihulls - regatta and festival will become a staple in competitive racing in the brilliant waters surrounding Dutch Sint Maarten and French St. Martin according to SYC.

According to SYC, back in the 1950's St. Maarten was the birthplace of multihull sailing in the Caribbean with inspired designs from Peter Spronk.

Acting Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunications (Ministry TEATT) Cornelius de Weever, said that the new sailing event will further cement the country as a premier regional sailing destination.

"I take this opportunity to commend the St. Maarten Yacht Club for their out of the box thinking and adding to the sailing regatta experience that the country is well known for when we look at the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

"This will attract additional visitors to the destination, and today it is all about rediscovering the destination for sailors and visitors. I encourage other groups and organizations to think outside the box and be innovative in order to help our country grow again by offering new tourism-oriented experiences," Minister Cornelius de Weever said early Friday morning.

13. NAGICO Blames Social Media

Crisis PR is that element of the public relations profession which enables businesses to act sanely, helpfully, responsibly, and responsively in the face of crises. Thanks to hurricane Irma, the St. Maarten-based insurance company Nagico has been in the middle of a huge crisis for about nine months. Policyholders have claimed that Nagico has been dragging its feet in settling claims and when it does settle, some say it is paying pennies on the dollar. In multiple cases, policyholders have taken Nagico to court to compel it to pay something closer to what the policyholders expect.

The SXM *Daily Herald* recently interviewed the head of Nagico, Imran McSood. Among other things, Mr. McSood complained that social media was largely responsible for his company's tarnished image following Irma. <u>Here</u> is that story.

We thought you would find the Daily Herald article interesting -- but note this well:

If damage to personal or business property comes up in conversation with island residents next time you visit SXM, you might want to ask people how their insurance settlement was handled — particularly on the Dutch side: you just might get an earful of first-hand information about what people really do think of Nagico, and why.

14. Gov't Comments on Recovery Plan Say Little

The Dutch side government recently held a public meeting to enable business owners to find out how to work with the World Bank in connection with funds made available to the island for Irma recovery by the World Bank.

Tourists are interested in what's happening to the money from a tourist perspective. For what kind of projects might a plurality of the funds be spent? Is it roads, other infrastructure, the airport, the harbor, the new hospital, hotels, timeshares? Information on the recovery plan seemed to us to be primarily procedural as opposed to informative. As tourists, we understand that such information is of value to island residents, but we do believe everyone would be interested to learn how this huge half billion dollar pot of money is going to be spent. Hopefully that information will be released soon, in detail.

More on the recovery plan is here.

More news follows this message.

Protect All Your Summer Travel
with SkyMed, the
Medical Evacuation Membership Program
that TAKES YOU HOME®
to doctors and hospitals you know & trust
when you become critically ill or injured
when traveling. Get it BEFORE you need it --

just like fire insurance.

See www.getskymed.com

or call Jeff for answers to questions

during normal office hours, Eastern time:

508-747-8281

See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

Beaches, Condo Rentals, Villa Rentals Pages Updated

We spent a lot of time last week completing serious updates to several heavily visited pages on our everythingSXM.com website: beaches, condominium rentals, and our villa rentals pages all were substantially updated.

If you're looking for up-to-date island information, you will find a tremendous amount of it on our site, everything SXM.com, and also on our Everything SXM Facebook Site. Check them out.

16. U. S. Military Memberships: Our Special Thanks

Current and former members of the US military now armed with a DD 214 receive the lowest pricing we ever offer anyone for membership in our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program.

Now offering in excess of 300 discounts and other benefits, JMB Website Supporters recently celebrated its 16th anniversary. The price of military memberships is just \$16.99 per year when paid for four years upon enrollment (\$67.96). Memberships can be renewed at any time at the same pricing. The only evidence of service we need is that DD 214, with your serial number obliterated for security. You can join either by clicking the page curl on everythingSXM.com or by calling Membership Services during normal business hours EDT at 508-830-3456. Military members get exactly the same breadth of membership features as all other JMB Website Supporters members; they simply pay less than non-military JMB members. *Thank you for your service*.

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. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

17. Kids on SXM Vacations: What's To Do?

There is much more for kids to do on St. Maarten / Saint Martin vacations now than there was just a couple of years ago.

Had you asked us two years ago what kids can do on summer vacations in SXM, we would probably have told you about the St. Maarten Zoo, the Butterfly Farm on the French side, and perhaps the pool at Loterie Farm.

Today, even though the St. Maarten Zoo was damaged beyond repair and is closed permanently and the Butterfly Farm was at least temporarily blown away, there is much more to do on SXM than you might imagine. We don't have room to publish it all here; but see our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, go to the Files area there, and you'll find an extensive list of really attractive activities for kids.

If you're coming with your children or grandchildren, it will provide a great roadmap for your entire stay.

18. Charter House 1863 Closed Permanently

Reincarnated a few years ago from the old Saratoga Restaurant in Simpson Bay, Charter House 1863 has closed permanently in the wake of major damage from hurricane Irma.

Most SXM restaurants have reopened, others are working toward reopening, and some will never be back. Detailed listings of all restaurants in all these categories are in the Files area of our Everything SXM Facebook Site; we welcome you to use it as a reliable reference, updated frequently.

SATURDAY NIGHT 9/16 AT 9PM EDT

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& Invitations to all our Island Parties,
exclusively for JMB Website Supporters members:
Get, Renew, or Reinstate a JMB Membership Today:

New JMB memberships: One year \$44, THREE years \$79 and SIX years \$139 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One yr., \$33; THREE yrs., \$73; 6 yrs., \$123

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

19. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed

Emergency medical evacuations are <u>payable in cash in advance</u> and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- <u>unless you have a SkyMed membership</u>. 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 Cay 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

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 21 for more specifics.

20. 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:

<u>IZI</u>

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.

6/17/18

21. 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 SkyMed 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 SkyMed Covers: A complete, highly thoughtful spectrum of important evacuation-related services. Download the complete list with descriptions here.

How SkyMed 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 weekday or evening (EDT) 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?

22. Restaurant of the Week: Wasabi Charlie

Remember Sushiitto, Pierre "Pete" Ferland's iconic Japanese hibachi style restaurant in Princess Port de Plaisance? After Irma it moved next door to Pineapple Pete and changed names to Wasabi Charlie -- but the hibachi-style cooking, sushi, menus, and staff are all the same great folks you know from Sushiitto.

Wasabi Charlie takes the reins as the best Japanese restaurant on SXM. Fresh, delicious food; very reasonable prices; outstanding service. Always a pleasure to visit any restaurants run by Pierre. Just go.

Coming soon: La Patrona.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (6/18/18) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

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, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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, <u>www.sailstmaarten.com</u> (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, <u>www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (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.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our <u>Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site</u>. Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

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23. 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

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

24. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingsxm.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.

25. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

SXM weekly news, our everythingSXM.com website and its hurricane center, and our everything SXM Facebook site — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our sponsors.

Our sponsorships enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject JMB sponsorships. We'll get complete information to you quickly.Summer is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases late this year and into 2019. Contact us today for more information.

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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/pavpal.shtml.

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingsxm.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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old 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 <code>jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com</code> 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)

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