

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 8/13/18 Double Issue: Come To Our 8/16 Island Party; Jet Blue Bulletin; Club Orient Answers; SXM Airport; Alegria Becomes "Morgan"; Harvard / AUC; Climate Change; Star Clippers; Marina Royale; LEDs Fixed at Golf Course Road; Irma; Grand Case; Tropicana [37 Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1164 --- Monday, August 13, 2018
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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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 308,000 people around the world...

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

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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://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:

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

Rinkydyl51@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/20/2019 1/27/2019 Week 3 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Poolside sleep 2 studio on the ground floor which has been newly renovated in the lower "B" building. Close to pool, beach, restaurants and shopping. \$1,800.00 Debbie 330-503-1410 dmorri3035@gmail.com

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](#)

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

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All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

A Message from the Editor...

To give the staff a chance to re-energize before the heart of Hurricane Season kicks in, and to give our technical folks time to upgrade our systems and a key server, last week we published a rare "St. Maarten Weekly News in Brief" instead of our usual longer, more detailed editions. Consequently, what you're reading now is a special Double Edition of *SXM Weekly News*. We hope you enjoy it.

-- Jeff Berger, *Editor-in-Chief & Publisher*

1. Court Orders NAGICO To Pay Airport \$33-million+

NAGICO, the St. Maarten-based National General Insurance Company Inc., has been ordered by a court in St. Maarten to pay SXM Airport an additional USD\$33-million as an add-on payout beyond the \$25 million already paid in partial settlement of the airport's insurance claims in the wake of hurricane Irma. The payment is not expected to be the last that NAGICO is ordered to pay the airport, which filed well in excess of \$100 million in claims against its NAGICO policies after Irma nearly destroyed the main airport terminal.

Local press coverage of the court decision is [here](#). The next story contains much more information about the airport's reaction to this payment, along with a look forward to what happens next from the airport's perspective.

2. Airport, Pleased With Ruling, Looking Forward

Shortly after news broke that NAGICO had been ordered to make a large incremental payment to the airport in response to its claims following hurricane Irma, the airport issued the following statement, which we think you will find interesting:

Simpson Bay, St. Maarten (Monday July 30, 2018) –*In a judgment of 30 July 2018, the Sint Maarten Court of First Instance ordered NAGICO to pay to Princess Juliana Airport (PJIA) an advance of USD 33,2 million. This amount is in addition to an advance of USD 25 million that was already paid by NAGICO.*

In its judgment, the Court considered that, although the dispute between PJIA and NAGICO is complicated both legally and technically, PJIA has a pressing interest in obtaining an advance on the insurance payments that it is entitled to, so that it can continue the restoration of the airport.

In addition to the advance of USD 33,2 million, NAGICO was ordered to pay PJIA an amount of ANG 20,000 in legal costs.

“We are very satisfied with the Court’s judgment,” Mr. Ravi Daryanani, Acting CEO and Michel Hyman, COO of PJIA stated. “Not only has the Court awarded a significant advance on the total damages suffered by PJIA, but as a result of these proceedings NAGICO was forced to finally review PJIA’s insurance claim, which it has consistently refused to do until legal proceedings were started.”

PJIA’s attorneys, Eric de Vries and Michiel van den Brink of HBN Law, explained that the Court’s judgment is a preliminary decision: “Summary proceedings like these are intended to provide interim relief on short notice. Given that nature, Courts must be cautious with awarding monetary claims. Typically, a monetary claim is only allowed if there is no reasonable doubt that the claim would also be awarded in ordinary proceedings on the merits.”

De Vries and Van den Brink pointed out that, although a considerable amount has been awarded, this only represents part of the amount that PJIA is entitled to: “In view of the nature of the proceedings against NAGICO, the Court has awarded only part of the amount that it expects NAGICO to be liable for.”

The Managing Board of the Princess Juliana International Airport- SXM stated that they expect that the settlement of PJIA’s insurance claim will from now on be handled more expeditiously by NAGICO. They also expressed their expectation that the further settlement of the claim can be carried out in a more amicable atmosphere: “Our loss experts and NAGICO’s loss adjuster have continued discussions on the settlement of PJIA’s insurance claim during the proceedings. We expect that PJIA’s claim will be settled amicably and hope that no further legal actions will be necessary. That would not only be in PJIA’s interest, but also that of Sint Maarten.”

Lastly, the Managing Board would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire staff of the Princess Juliana International Airport- SXM for their tireless work ethic and for standing by management during this time, as we return to be the regional leaders in the airport industry.

We are proud of the airport community. [End Airport News Release.]

In addition, the airport also issued this forward-looking suite of observations:

Simpson Bay, July 30, 2018 – Safety, security, environment, efficiency, customer service and economic development are key priorities of SXM Airport. PJIAE management is committed to restoring the airport’s award-winning service and will continue to keep the community informed of its progress.

In this regard, management continues to take stakeholders' requirements into account as the reconstruction activities for the restoration of the airport terminal facilities move ahead.

"We acknowledge that this is a challenging endeavor that involves many elements. Management has committed itself to maintaining communication with the community of St. Maarten regarding the rebuilding of the airport terminal," acting CEO, Mr. Ravi Daryanani said in a press release.

Monthly meetings with stakeholders continue to take place. During these meetings, operators of the major hotels as well as the Ministry of TEATT discuss and plan for the upcoming tourism season. Restoration of our tourism product is critical to St. Maarten's overall economic recovery, Daryanani added.

"SXM Airport has not faced such a multi-faceted challenge before. Glitches or inconveniences occur, and we try to solve each as practically as possible", the acting CEO stated.

During the peak of the summer, temperatures are high, and we are working on solutions to maintain the temporary pavilions as comfortable as possible, he continued. Especially for the upcoming months of August and September, PJIAE management will increase the air conditioning effectiveness by installing air curtains above the doors/gates to stop heat from entering the room. The airport will also position additional cooling devices such as bigger, stand-up fans throughout the pavilions for maximum, powerful air circulation.

"We appreciate the patience and understanding that our stakeholders and passengers continue to demonstrate while using the temporary facilities, and we commit ourselves to improving the comfort and service at these pavilions," the acting CEO said.

Resuming use of the terminal building and revamping the current FBO [Fixed Base Operations, for private aircraft - Ed.] property is scheduled for November of this year.

The following is a summary of the planned activities in support of the 2018-2019 tourist season.

Terminal

To satisfy the requirements of our stakeholders and to improve service to our passengers and guests, PJIAE intends to put a section of the ground floor in the terminal building back into use. This will be a temporary measure to allow PJIAE to accommodate the airlines' schedules for the upcoming Winter Season. Passenger comfort and service will be much enhanced in the terminal building as compared to the pavilions. The temporary terminal solution will not delay or obstruct the overall reconstruction of the terminal facilities that is slated to start in October 2018

The recent completion of the waterproofing works on the roof of the terminal building makes this temporary solution possible. Our priority is to ensure the safety and health of every person using the terminal building. We therefore must guarantee that the facility is free of harmful mold. Mold remediation activities will start in August 2018 and take six weeks to complete.

Mold remediation work will be supervised and certified by specialized international experts. Local workers will be used to execute these works. PJIAE estimates that between 80 and 100 persons will be employed and trained by the contractor for the mold remediation activities. Once the mold remediation is completed and PJIAE receives the international certification, the next phase of reconstruction, terminal reconstruction will commence.

Local contractors were invited to express their interest for this project and PJIAE has prequalified five contractors who will now enter the bidding phase. The international engineering firm CORGAN has been selected to conduct the project management.

FBO

The FBO (Fixed Base Operation) represents a critical element of PJIAE's services to general aviation stakeholders and guests. SXM Airport believes it is imperative to give the current FBO facility an uplift/remodeling to enhance the facility which will eventually improve the operational flow, comfort level, perception of an FBO, working environment amongst many other things which are crucial factors for this niche market. The experience will also deter operators/owners from using other FBOs located on neighboring islands thus choosing SXM Airport as the preferred airport for processing/stay over.

3. FAA Revisits Its Reluctance To Set Aircraft Seating

Standards

The US Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, said more than a month ago that had no interest in regulating seat room aboard aircraft in the US. A hullabaloo ensued, during which it was pointed out that tests by airlines of evacuation procedures ensuring that airlines could evacuate their planes within 90 seconds were bogus, since young people were employed as test subjects instead of the older demographic that fills today's airliners. Moreover, many passengers stop to take carry-ons off the airplanes which is not allowed, delays evacuation, and endangers the safety of all passengers.

The FAA said recently that it will re-examine airline seating density to determine if regulation to ensure passenger safety is needed.

Airlines continue to shoehorn more passengers into the same amount of space, reducing legroom and making the in-flight experience even more uncomfortable. Some airlines are reducing the thickness of seats to create room for more seats, and some new airliners make already tiny aircraft lavatories even smaller. That sent many disabled individuals into orbit, since they can't readily utilize current tiny disabled-unfriendly lavatories.

To our knowledge no airline currently serving SXM makes available lavatories specifically oriented toward the special needs of the disabled, something that is highly overdue and may well require Federal legislation in the US.

4. NHC Watching Tropics East of Leeward Islands

The National Hurricane Center is keeping its eyes focused on the tropical Atlantic between the leeward islands and Africa, where some tropical activity may soon be brewing.

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of crownweather.com does *not* cite the Northern Lesser Antilles as currently being in the crosshairs for such storms, but he has said that the Greater Antilles (the larger islands to SXM's far Northwest) and much of the US East Coast could be. Please see other stories in this section for more on tropical weather.

We have updated our Weather Center on our main site, everythingSXM.com, where you can find the latest tropical observations as well as watches and warnings and much more information as appropriate. Please see that site for the latest updates.

5. Airline / Yacht Crew: Share SkyMed Info With Co-workers

Because airline and yacht crewmembers are frequently far from home, they need to protect themselves against the catastrophic out-of-pocket cost of an emergency medical evacuation. That's why we're hearing from crewmembers increasingly often who have been told by other crewmembers about SkyMed medical evacuation protection. You can read more about SkyMed in story number 31, but the bottom line is that SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling — home where your support network is, where your health insurance actually works, and where you have doctors and hospitals you know and trust.

SkyMed is a big deal. It's for Americans and Canadians; See www.getskymed.com.

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

6. The Best Places for Tropical Updates; Hurricane Tracking Chart

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.*

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Club Orient Answers Beachgoer Questions

The following information is directly from Club Orient, the island's largest naturist resort, directly on Orient Beach. More on Club Orient is at www.cluborient.com. SXM also has another naturist resort, [Club Fantastico](#), in a villa perched high on the hills behind Orient Bay, which is open. The information below applies to Club Orient, which is rebuilding in the wake of Irma.

Thank you for all the comments and statements of support. We've said it before, but you truly do not appreciate how grateful we are to have such loyal and wonderful friends.

Some of you have asked various questions and don't feel we have responded with detailed answers or explanations and wonder why we seem to only be limiting our postings to general updates.

You're right! We have tried to keep our postings as simple and truthful as possible, as the details often would take a great deal of explanation and for those of you unfamiliar with how differently things operate outside your home country, sometimes it just doesn't seem to make sense.

I have worked in countries all over the world from Asia to Europe to Central America and of course, the Caribbean. One of the first things I learned (the hard way I might add) was that no one in the country you are working in cares how it is done in the States. You are not there to change, comment on or give advice on how things are done, "back in the States". If you can't accept that, you shouldn't be working or living in someone else's country.

Having said that, we are going to start posting one or two FAQ's daily to explain some of the things which are often mentioned by people who comment on social media. We are not going to go into great detail, as it often can get very

complicated and simple questions can often require very lengthy answers.

I will also point out that Orient Beach Club is a French corporation and like any corporation it does not always post everything online for public consumption of a privately held company.

Finally, as a blanket statement I would disregard about 99% of what you see on social media. It is often written by people who have not even been on St. Martin, but instead heard from "someone who knows". Some of the people posting have also heard directly from a waiter, beach boy, a local who they met on the beach etc.

We've said it before. If you want to know if something is true or not, just email us and ask! If we know the answer, we'll tell you. If we are unsure, we'll tell you that as well.

With all of that said let's start with the FAQ's.

What About The Employees?

Immediately after Irma we set up a private online site for all employees to discover if they or their family needed help, where they were located and what they needed that we could supply.

Nancy Tieman was kind enough to start the go fund me page for employees and thanks to your generosity we were able to give each employee approximately \$1000.00 We posted pictures of the happy day when it was distributed.

As a side note we should also thank Windward Island bank for bending (breaking) a host of rules to assist us. In addition, we had to hire off duty Gendarmes for security, so people would actually get back home unmolested. It was a big undertaking, at a rather sketchy time on St. Martin.

The employees have been receiving "chomage partial" every month since Irma. OBC pays each employee 85% of their net wages, plus holidays and vacation at full pay. OBC only receives back from the government a smaller percentage of minimum wage.

Employees also can work while receiving this money, so some employees are actually doing better than pre-Irma! Most however, are not able to find a job, as our unemployment rate is about 63%.

The Government limits this to 1000 hours per year. They have the ability to extend it and have once since Irma. As of now, chomage partial will end on November 2018.

When chomage partial ends an employer must pay full wages, even if the employee is not working or terminate the employee. Termination is a time consuming and expensive proposition. The employee would then be eligible of Assedic or unemployment. They would receive their full salary from the government for one year (or two in some cases).

The above is just a thumbnail overview of the question, "What about the employees?" You can see why we didn't include it before in our postings. If any of you are really interested in this stuff, please let us know and we'll keep it up as long as there are questions.

Can we still come visit the beach? Are there activities or food available?

What is open/closed on the island?

First, the easy question. Water sports, a massage facility and a souvenir kiosk are open seven days a week. Occasionally, either massage or the kiosk will be closed, but water sports with chairs and umbrellas are open every day from 8:00am until about 4:00pm. Please say hello to Cedric and the guys when you visit they look forward to seeing all our good friends.

The Perch Lite is also open seven days a week from about 10:00am until 5:00pm with a full bar, great ribs, fish and burgers. Randy, who you may remember from the Papagayo, as he was then restaurant manager and later became food and beverage manager is back at the grill.

The Perch Lite is a major undertaking because with no electricity, Randy must do all the prep at home every day and stop to buy ice on his way into work. Electric is supplied by a portable generator and the facility itself was built by Randy with help of the CO staff in October. It was the first place opened on Orient Beach.

Both Randy and Cedric continue to do a great job under very difficult circumstances and Club orient is very proud of them and their staff.

What's Open on SXM?

[Although we're publishing Club Orient's answer below, you'll find up-to-the-minute, detailed coverage on this topic

on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) in the FILES area. More than 21,000 people rely on that site every day for the latest island info and are ready to answer questions not already answered on the site or in its FILES. -Ed.]

Tougher question, depending on when you come to visit. In general, the Dutch side has moved much more rapidly than the French side. You'll see many of the places in Simpson Bay operating just like before Irma.

One notable exception is the old Grand Marche, now called Carrefour which was our largest supermarket on the island. It experienced a fire which destroyed the interior of the newly remodeled store. They are in the process of re-building again, but it is still closed as of now.

Some, but not all the casinos are open, Port de Plaisance and Rouge Noir are open, as well as a new place in Simpson Bay not far from the airport.

The French Side is slowly coming back with Orient Village having all their restaurants open and Sol y Luna in Cul de Sac is open both lunch and dinner. Rancho del Sol and Al Dente are currently open most evenings and usually for lunch during the week. Plus, Bikini Beach Restaurant just re-opened.

Hotels on the French side are a different story. At the last Hotel Association meeting the properties which were represented estimated that combined they could have about 500 rooms open by Christmas. This is very sad, as with hotels being the chief source of employment, it could be a very bleak Christmas for many St Martiners.

All the above changes on a day to day basis in some cases. This is especially true in August and September, as even in a normal year many places shut down during the hurricane season. Your best bet is to email or call to be sure a place is open before trying to visit. [See also our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). -Ed.]

There are many places we did not mention. Some are closed for August- September like Tropicana in Marigot. Other places like the Riu Hotel which was sold, will not be open for another two years. Grand Case Beach Hotel will have some of their rooms to rent this season, but their restaurant will take a while longer.

In general, you will now find ample choices for food, gas stations, restaurants, car rentals, etc. You may notice some items not available or in limited supply, but we expect that to improve prior to the next season.

Hope that helps and sorry if we left out one of your favorites. Email us and if we know we'll let you know.

On Monday, I will do my best to answer as many questions as I can on the insurance problems. It is taking a while to craft this update and once again it is not OBC insurance, but the Copro insurance which is delayed. I want to be sure that I am accurate and do not say anything which could further complicate the situation.

**Why don't you have the web cam back up? It should be easy to do.
Why can't you get regular toilets back at the Perch Lite? I hate the Porta Potties.**

If putting the web cam back up was easy, we'd have already done it. You need electricity to operate the camera and the server. We only have a gas operated generator for now. We would also need a secure place for the server and in addition, we have no internet service at the resort.

Regular toilets require a water supply, which we do not have access to at this time. We also need a place for the water to go once the toilet has been flushed.

You may or may not remember that Club Orient was completely self-sufficient for all utilities. We made our own electric (hence we didn't have multi-hour blackouts), we made our own water with a reverse osmosis system and were proud that every inspection showed our water was superior to the water produced on the island. In addition, we handled all of our own waste water and after treatment, used it as "grey water" to irrigate the foliage.

We were very proud of our self sufficiency at Club Orient and that our guests were never without utilities for more than an hour, when we needed to do regular maintenance. Once we're back up and running, we hope to deliver the same services again.

[Again, the above answers were provided by and apply to Club Orient. -Ed.]

9. Major Demolition at Ocean Club

As regular readers of this newsletter are well aware, hurricane Irma struck the island early in September of last year causing billions of dollars in damage to both sides of the island.

Although SXM has been greeting tourists ever since late last Fall, after the airport reopened, it has still not fully

recovered nor will it for some time. It certainly is open for business and welcoming tourists. But Irma, the second most powerful tropical cyclone in recorded world history, has left some scars. We're not going to repeat that which we've already published — you can read all the news from the last few years in our [SXM Weekly News PDF archives](#).

But, three buildings at Simpson Bay Resort were damaged beyond repair by Irma, necessitating their demolition which has already been completed: Dieffenbachia, Croton, and Calladium all are gone. The entire Summit Resort in the Cupecoy area also was destroyed, and what was left of it was demolished several weeks ago. Within the last couple of weeks or so, most of the remains of Ocean Club on Cupecoy beach, also destroyed by Irma, were demolished by wrecking crews.

If you'd like to see photography of any of this, check out our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) and use the search window to find what you seek.

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THANK YOU.

10. Great House Marina Demolition Includes Stores, Restaurants

Within the last couple of weeks, the Greathouse Marina has been demolished.

Located on oyster pond across the street from the Greathouse apartment building, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, and Daniel's by the Sea Italian restaurant, all destroyed by Irma, the Marina housed Pier Grocer; Busby's Rotisserie Chicken; Canoa Restaurant; and the number of additional businesses, and the pier was widely used by island tour boats.

We've sent a message to the owners of the Marina regarding its future, and will publish their response in a future issue of *SXM Weekly News*.

11. Alegria Owner Prematurely Touts New Development

Ray Sidhom took over the former Caravanserai timeshare resort a few years ago and told timeshare owners that their contracts were null and void, so a number of those timeshare owners banded together to sue him in local courts. He lost the suit, but appealed. The ruling on his appeal was to be handed down early this month, but a heavy caseload and other unknown distractions have changed that date to early next month.

We'll let you know what happens — but remember, Mr. Sidhom's record in court is abysmal. All of the suits in which he has been involved on the island, to the best of our knowledge, he has lost. Hopefully timeshare owners will win this case as well -- and be entitled to compensation for the property Mr. Sidhom allegedly took from them.

Only litigating timeshare owners would be entitled to benefits from this suit, since there is no such thing on the island as class-action lawsuits. However, a ruling in favor of the timeshare owners could set a precedent which may enable other groups of former Caravanserai timeshare owners to go to court against Mr. Sidhom in hopes of a positive outcome.

We believe that legal factors should prevent Mr. Sidhom from making any changes to his property until the final outcome of the timeshare owners' lawsuit is clear. Nonetheless, that didn't stop Mr. Sidhom from promoting "his" property yet again -- even though the rights of timeshare owners have not yet been 100% adjudicated in court. You'll find his promotion of "his" property [right here](#); see what you think of it. In our opinion, it is *a bit* premature. He appears to be renaming the resort, or part of it, yet again, from Alegria to The Morgan -- perhaps to get away from the stigma of a Resort known for the event described in the first paragraph of this story.

12. 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 now open too -- 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 have just been heavily revised. Get your rental weeks now. (Ads on those pages are from JMB Website Supporters members exclusively.)

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

13. 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 300+ SXM Discounts,](#)
**[Many Other Island Benefits,](#)
[& \(P. S.\) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:](#)****

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Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One year \$39; THREE yrs. \$79; & Our BEST Offer, SIX years \$139

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

14. Lead Story: *Last Call* -- Come To Our Island Party This Thursday!

A few weeks ago, we announced our first-ever summer island party in August at a superb venue — Toppers Rhum Distillery in Simpson Bay. **If you are or even if you are not a member of JMB Website Supporters but will be visiting the island this week, hang in — this article has news of interest for you.**

First, here are some details about the party:

Not only will this party feature rum tastings, an open bar, and plenty of appetizers for the 100 to 125 people expected to attend, it will also feature renowned art by globally honored plein air impressionist painter Sir Roland Richardson, who resides on SXM. Present at the party will be three other well-known SXM artists — Stephy Tihanyi, Ruby Butte, and Patty Meotti. The only charge is a \$12 fee assessed by the Distillery when you enter the building; it's to help cover the cost of the open bar.

Here is our newest wrinkle....In the past, we have invited only JMB Website Supporters members and some of their chosen guests to our parties. *That's changing for this party. If you are on the island this week and would like to attend our party but are not a JMB Website Supporters member, take heart: you're now invited. We're doing this because we want to show nonmembers one aspect of what we do for our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members throughout the year (in addition to supplying them with 300+ discounts and other benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership).* **Bear in mind that Preregistration is still required for all attendees, you and your guests.**

If you are or are not a JMB member, you must preregister by emailing susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject Party. We need the names and email addresses of everyone who will attend including your guests. If you're a JMB member, please include your membership number.

You will not want to miss this event. Think about joining JMB Website Supporters. Membership info is yours by clicking either link in the ad above this story.

Party Summary:

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED; Contact Susan as noted above to Register.

Island Party Features:

Appetizers
Welcome Drink
Open Bar
Roland Richardson art
Artists Ruby Bute, Patty Meotti, & Stephy Tihanyi in attendance
Rhum Tasting
Mini distillery tour

Join us! Once we reach capacity we will stop accepting registrations, so act now.

15. HFP "Harvard Faculty Physicians" Hooks Up With AUC

Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, a key part of Harvard University, is one of the world's foremost medical schools. Harvard Medical School Faculty Physicians are doctors with various specialties who teach at the prestigious institution and also provide medical services to patients at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, one of the top Harvard teaching hospitals in the world.

Now, Harvard Medical School Faculty Physicians have signed a memorandum of understanding with leaders of the American University of the Caribbean medical school focused upon the creation of a Caribbean Disaster Medicine Center focused on AUC's campus in the Cupecoy area on the Dutch side of the island, part of the fastest growing area on all of SXM.

Here is the [complete story](#).

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16. AMS Fires Global Warming Warnings

The American Meteorological Society, which claims many TV and other Meteorologists among its members, last week threw down the gauntlet to climate change deniers with many facts in its 2017 year-end "State of the Climate" Report. You can download it [here](#).

Long-time NBC weather reporter Al Roker last week injected key AMS findings into a time slot usually reserved for a national weather overview. See what he had to say [here](#) and please also see the next story.

17. Caribbean-Wide, "Climate Change" Is Devastating News

Perhaps nowhere on the planet does the reality of climate change hit home harder than it does right here on St. Maarten.

Until Irma rearranged parts of SXM's coastline almost a year ago, beach erosion was clear and unmistakable across the island. Icecaps at the North Pole and on Antarctica and Greenland are melting at unprecedented rates, proven by satellite images, and at least one icecap the size of Manhattan has broken off into the sea at Antarctica. More powerful hurricanes, increased storminess in both the northern and southern hemispheres, and vast increases in both the frequency and severity of wildfires worldwide are being regarded as "the new normal" by authorities thanks to climate change.

A number of years ago, a Gadfly organization called SXM Private Eye along with other organizations on SXM [produced a video](#) showing the disastrous impact global warming/climate change could have in store not only for St. Maarten, but for other small islands and coastal communities worldwide. That video, which we have featured here before, is called St. Maarten past present and future — and you can see it [here](#).

At the time it was produced, some people regarded the video as a fanciful exercise. Now, however, there is nearly universal agreement that climate change not only is real, but that it is pervasive and having major deleterious effects across our planet. What the AMS was doing to its report (see prior story) is trying to wake people up to the cruel reality that is unfolding for all of us and for our children and grandchildren, right now....

18. Star Clippers Boosting SXM Presence

Tall ships have long been the focus of great fascination from people wishing to experience the past while enjoying the present — and the Star Clipper fleet enables people to thoroughly enjoy this unique experience.

Now, the Star Clippers folks have announced that one of their ships will be home ported in St. Maarten starting late next year. See details [here](#). Sounds like an amazing adventure....

19. Marina Royale To Get Major Changes

A few weeks ago, we mentioned that the former Sarafina bakery and restaurant previously located on the Marigot waterfront is moving to Marina Royale, home of the near legendary Tropicana Restaurant.

The addition of Sarafina is not the only big change coming to Marina Royale — lots more is brewing. Here are the [details](#).

See also story 25, re: Tropicana.

20. After LED Lights Fail at Golf Course Road, a Carjacking

A couple of years ago, well before Irma visited the island last year, road lights throughout the St. Maarten golf course provided great new illumination cost-effectively through the use of LEDs. Although in recent months the lights have been working fine, they weren't one night roughly a week ago. Without the lights, the area is dark and creepy.

Exactly how creepy was found out by a woman who was driving through the golf course a week ago yesterday. At 11 PM some individuals accosted her at gunpoint and carjacked her vehicle. She was driving alone and thankfully was not hurt in the incident.

GEBE officials interviewed on Dr. Soc's Island 92 "Fresh Air In The Morning" last week said the outage was due to a short circuit underground and was fixed quickly.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

21. Saba to Close Its Airport for a Month

Saba — that rakish pyramid shaped island to SXM's southwest, easily seen from the Simpson Bay/Maho/Cupecoy area — is best reached by plane. Although boats make the trip from SXM to Saba frequently, the trip back against the current may well be one of the most unpleasant seagoing experiences you might have anywhere in the Caribbean — especially if there's a shortage of barf bags.

There is good news and bad news here. The bad news is that the airport is closing for a month. The good news is that when it reopens the runway will have been improved. Here's the [complete story](#).

22. We Want Your Irma Story

Thousands of people -- including more than 4,000 American tourists -- were on SXM when Irma struck the island. Our Labor Day and September 10 editions will both feature reader stories about those fateful days. Whether you're a tourist or an island local, please email your story to Susan in our office, with the subject Irma, to susan@jmbcommunications.com; you may also send them to us as a PM through our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). We reserve the right to condense articles to meet space requirements and ask you to stay below 600 words. We'll publish as many of these stories as possible, and we intend to publish many of them on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) as well.

Please write and send yours today.

23. Kali's at Friar's Bay is Now Roots

Kali's Beach Bar on Friar's Bay, the barbecue restaurant north of Marigot, will most likely always be called "Kali's" like many people still call Simpson Bay Resort by its original name - Pelican. But Kali's likes to be called "Roots" or "The Roots". Regardless of what you call it, Kali's is perhaps best known for its Full Moon parties. Check it out, but beware that music plays when you [click this link](#).

24. Boulevard de Grand Case Coming Back to Life

Two areas of SXM that were damaged extremely severely by hurricane Irma were Dawn beach, where nearly everything was destroyed, and Boulevard de Grand Case, where Irma inflicted major damage to buildings on both sides of the Boulevard as well as major damage to the Boulevard itself.

Although a number of restaurants in Grand Case have been back in business for many months, Boulevard de Grand Case itself is now beginning to show some of the flare that has long made it famous to culinary aficionados

worldwide.

[Here](#), you'll find an excellent story recently published about this by the Dutch side's *SXM Daily Herald*.

25. Tropicana Starts Seasonal Closing; Returns in Nov.

Tropicana restaurant in Marigot, long one of the island's most popular restaurants, has begun its seasonal closing. If you intended to visit between now and early November, you are out of luck. But in November they will be reopening — along with several new neighbors in Marina Royale. For details, see story number 19.

26. Breathtaking Villa Seawatch For Sale

Villa Seawatch in Dawn Beach estates, which we've had the good fortune to visit on many occasions, is now for sale. Here are details, pricing info, and contact info.

Villa, 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths plus patio shower (Sleeps 6)

ALIVE AND WELL AND FULLY RESTORED VILLA SEA WATCH SURVIVED IRMA'S WRATH. TOTAL REMODELING WAS COMPLETED JANUARY 2018. VSW STANDS SENTINEL OVER THE OCEAN WITH COMMANDING VIEW OF ST. BARTS.

Welcome to Villa Sea Watch, an elegant Mediterranean villa with Caribbean décor. Nearly 3000 square feet of Caribbean open views with a private pool and patio sitting above the ocean, giving amazing views of St. Barts, St. Kitts and St. Eustatius. Villa Sea Watch has three bedrooms, three and a half baths, an outdoor, pool-side shower, and is newly remodeled, inside and out. Private, private, private! Caribbean splendor describes Villa Sea Watch, enveloped by lush tropical gardens, plenty of private parking, and every room enjoys ocean views. Every bedroom is en suite and has its own private balcony overlooking the sea.

The beautiful island of St. Maarten/St. Martin is busy rebuilding after Irma. As of early April 2018, more than 100 restaurants on the French side and 85% of the restaurants on the Dutch side are open providing their world-famous cuisine. Many businesses are open to greet you with their island friendliness and excellent deals. Search the internet for more information on how strong SXM is in its recovery. There you will find recent videos and photos of how much progress is complete. Contact me for more information on these web sites and a list of currently open restaurants.

A trip to St. Maarten/St. Martin during 2018 will not be the same as earlier times. The beaches in 2018 will be far less crowded, and you may have to pack beach towels (provided at Villa Sea Watch) to enjoy the sun, sand, and crystal clear water. Some lolos are open on the most popular beaches and others are busy rebuilding. It will truly be a trip of fun and discovery and you will have your run of the island. Now is a rare opportunity to experience St. Maarten/St. Martin beaches as they were in earlier times, before they became crowded. Remember your first trip to the island? You didn't have a favorite beach or a favorite restaurant, but you discovered it. A trip in 2018 may take you to your old favorites or you might very well find new ones. Pack your camera and post your photos to share with others curious about how the island is recovering.

After a day's exploration, return to your personal luxury accommodations to enjoy the best the Caribbean offers. The peace and serenity of Sea Watch are so very welcome. Party or relax and refresh yourself in the pool perched on the cliff's edge. The full service wet bar is right next to the patio! Make yourself a frozen drink, turn on the stereo, sit on a lounge and relax with the awesome ocean views. Enjoy outdoor dining with unbeatable ambiance. This is THE location for a cheeseburger in paradise. Al fresco dining is easy, too, with our fully equipped gourmet kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances and gas stove. Or enjoy grilling fresh seafood or steaks on the patio with the spectacular views all around you, the sound of the surf and a wonderfully warm breeze. If al fresco dining is not your preference, the large formal dining room and sunny casual dining area both overlook the sea. All dining areas enjoy breathtaking views. Afterwards, relax and enjoy the peace and thrill of stargazing. Shooting stars are common from Sea Watch's patio. And for those who love the night sky, you can see hundreds of constellations. My personal favorite is the Southern Cross found close to the horizon in the southern sky from late November (in the early morning) to the early June (in the early evening). If you enjoy star gazing, consider installing an app such as StarMap 3D on your smart phone. That will help you locate all the sky's objects, including satellites. The sky is awe inspiring!

PRIVACY is created by your own tropical gardens of palm trees, fig trees and bougainvillea that envelop one side of the patio and wrap around the rest of the villa. Tropical gardens and the turquoise sea will mesmerize you! Privacy is also afforded by the cul-de-sac from which VSW is accessed. Your unparalleled views are the Caribbean blue

ocean, St. Barts and the tropical paradise. The ambient sounds are the lull of the surf and the sugarbirds in the morning. Morning and evening walks are lovely as well in our friendly neighborhood.

There are large flat screen televisions in the Living Room and Master Bedroom; but there's no entertainment quite like star gazing over the ocean, watching shooting stars or the full moon over the water or counting the many constellations you can see. There's free cable TV, Wi-Fi, high speed internet, cell phone, high quality linens, beach towels, coolers for the beach, airport/car rental meeting with our local agent who will escort you to Villa Sea Watch, and will give you keys and show you how everything works. You will be greeted on arrival with a wine/beer and imported cheese-and-crackers basket to show how welcome you are. There's a large full service wet bar in the living room right off the patio... how convenient! And guests often leave liquors in the bar, as well as beer in the bar refrigerator (I never understand how this can possibly happen!) Make a drink and sit by, or in, the pool and watch St. Barts or the occasional dolphins. Our ocean-front pool patio is a blast... or you could just relax with a book and listen to the surf. Or enjoy the constant breeze and nap. The possibilities are endless.

Villa Sea Watch is THE location for those who want to get away from it all. But a short drive to the French side or the Dutch side of the island puts you in the middle of almost anything you might imagine.

USD \$999,000.

Call Island Real Estate, Andrew Ewing- Tenontour@hotmail.com Website www.ireteam.com

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[See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)

27. Got a News Tip?

We're always on the hunt for news of interest to our more than 308,000 readers worldwide. If you have a news tip, PM us through our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#); we'd love to hear it.

28. Are You Military?

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

Visit everythingxsm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership. We'll also need a DD214 with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you.

29. No Age Limit To Join SkyMed

Many people have wrongly assumed that SkyMed medical evacuation memberships are limited to people who are of a certain age, and that older people shouldn't apply. That information is wrong: *there is not and there has never been an age limit to join SkyMed*. And, applying for membership costs you nothing unless you are accepted, as most people are.

We can answer your questions and help complete an application by phone for you in less than 10 minutes. The questions we ask are brief and straightforward, including birth date, medical conditions, recent hospitalizations, and your prescriptions. It's not complicated and it's not time-consuming — but ***it's also something you do not want to put off. Like fire insurance, when you need it you need it — so get it before you need it.***

Contact our office at 508-747-8281 during normal office hours Eastern time and we'll be happy to return your call. Or, just email us at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with your phone number and time zone and we'll still be happy to call you back at a mutually convenient time. We've helped more than 4500 people get SKYMED; *we can help you get protected against the enormous cost of an emergency medical evacuation quickly and easily and at a very reasonable cost.* Call us and we'll show you how.

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Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One year \$39; THREE yrs. \$79; & Our BEST Offer, SIX years \$139

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

30. About Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway

Entries are now locked. We'll soon set a giveaway date, expected to be in the next few weeks:

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.)

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

31. "WHY?" You Asked; Here's the Answer

My wife and I were returning from dinner with friends in Grand Case several years back, when my wife suddenly felt hot and had breathing difficulty.

It got worse, when she nearly passed out as we approached Sapphire Beach Club and I immediately asked for an ambulance to be called. She was hot one minute, cold the next.

I thought it might be a stroke because she had trouble talking. The ambulance arrived quickly, walked through what we had for dinner, and after a tortuous hour trying to figure out what had happened, she started feeling better and declined a visit to the hospital.

Only some time later, back home, did we find out she has a severe allergy to a certain cheese -- and that had triggered the entire episode.

Although it was a relief, it was also the first time that I realized *talking* about medical evacuation wasn't enough -- it was about 14 years ago and that scare is what made me buy what I had recommended for the prior two years to others, but had never bought myself. It scared me into realizing that anything can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

A number of readers have asked me over the years why, exactly, do I talk about SkyMed medical evacuation protection. An emergency trip home on a medevac jet today could easily cost upwards of \$50,000 payable in cash in advance -- *without* SkyMed. No money, no medevac jet home. From overseas, the cost can easily be twice that. Now you know why I've been a bit evangelical about it: it really is a remarkably big deal.

Please allow me a few very quick facts:

First, there is **no age limit** to buy SkyMed; you can apply at any age. Pre-existing conditions are covered at once on short-term memberships, and after a short 90-day waiting period on annual and longer memberships.

Second, annual and multi-year SkyMed memberships are **guaranteed renewable** as long as you like, regardless of advancing age or declining health. You just pay your renewals on time.

Third, **SkyMed memberships don't get more expensive as you get older or have illness issues**; everyone pays the same reasonable rates. SkyMed won't cancel your membership or increase its cost just because you've reached a certain age, either. Keep it until you're 109 if you like.

Fourth, basic coverage "Takes You Home" when you travel in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Available global coverage includes the rest of the world except places on the State Department "watch list" (North Korea, for example.)

Fifth, SkyMed delivers far more than just medical evacuations. Its entire list of all key Features & Benefits is here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

Sixth, JMB Website Supporters members get **substantial discounts** on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you're not a JMB member when you call, we'll sign you up on the spot, if you like, giving you instant access to discounts available only to our JMB Website Supporters members. (More on JMB membership is on our site, [everythingxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com); JMB has over 300 SXM discounts and many other benefits.)

For still more info, please see our SkyMed site, [getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com).

We can answer all your questions; call us any day or evening up to 8 pm EDT at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only please). If you're ready to protect yourself and your family, we can take your application by phone --

usually in under 10 minutes.

Please do it now. Everything can change in a heartbeat.

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 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.

Anything can happen anywhere, at any time. Call Jeff at 508-747-8281 during business hours EDT.

To Sum Up - 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 details in our [list of benefits](#)) 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?

32. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Next Level Car Rental (just joined)

Starlite Car Rental (Belair Resort; just joined)

Sax Car Rental

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](#)

Melange (new; Port de Plaisance)

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*.

Updated 8/13/18

33. Use Our Weekly News Archives

Our recently updated *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published in the last four years, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and our *SXM Airport Special Edition*, which has a great deal of useful future information on what's going to happen at the airport.

Check it out [here](#).

34. Got SXM Questions? Here's Where The Answers Are

Check out our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) and our main SXM website, everythingxsm.com.

35. Restaurant of the Week: Returns Soon

Coming soon: **Domino's; Pineapple Pete.**

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 7/16/18) 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.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 7/2/18) Skipjack's main dining deck overlooking the lagoon was wrecked by Irma and is being rebuilt. They should be open late 2018.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 6/25/17; added 1/17) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended.

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). Limited hours this time of year.

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.

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. **Closed for the season until October.**

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 but will reopen later this year; different ownership expected.

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 2019 or later.

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.

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) Reopening in September.

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.

Bylbo's, Simpson Bay Not known.

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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Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**

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www.websitesthatworkusa.com

**In business since the web began --
a unit of JMB Communications.**

36. 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 throughout this year and into 2019. Contact us today for more information.

37. Late-Arriving Bulletin from JetBlue Airways

JetBlue Restoring Seasonal Service from its Boston Focus City to St. Maarten and St. Thomas

Mint Flights to St. Maarten Resume From New York-JFK and Expand From Boston

NEW YORK—Aug. 13, 2018- JetBlue (NASDAQ: JBLU) today announced it is relaunching its popular routes from Boston to St. Thomas and St. Maarten. Daily seasonal non-stop service from Boston Logan International Airport to Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, will resume on February 14, 2019. Seasonal service from Boston to St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport will operate twice weekly starting February 16, 2019. JetBlue has continually restored service to hurricane-impacted markets in the Caribbean as facilities have permitted, and as demand for travel has returned.

"We are very excited to resume service on these popular routes in the Caribbean as they continue to recover from the hurricanes and prepare to welcome visitors back to their beautiful shores," said Giselle Cortes, director of international airports for JetBlue. "We remain committed to helping the Caribbean region recover by continuing to increase capacity as demand returns."

Seasonal Schedule between Boston (BOS) and St. Thomas (STT)

Beginning February 14, 2019 (c)

BOS - STT Flight #807 STT- BOS Flight #808

9:20 a.m. – 2:19 p.m.

3:00 p.m. – 7:41 p.m.

Seasonal Schedule between Boston (BOS) and St. Maarten (SXM)

Beginning February 16, 2019

BOS - SXM Flight # 77 SXM - BOS Flight # 78

7:10 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

1:45 p.m. – 5:17 p.m.

JetBlue also announced it will launch new Saturday Mint service to St. Maarten from Boston in February 2019. Additionally, Saturday Mint flights to St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) from New York-JFK will resume in February 2019. JetBlue's Mint flights to St. Maarten are part of the airline's broader commitment to the Caribbean destination as it increases capacity in the market.

Saturday Mint Schedule between Boston (BOS) and St. Maarten (SXM)

Beginning February 16, 2019

BOS - SXM Flight #77 SXM- BOS Flight #78

7:10 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

1:45 p.m. – 5:17 p.m.

Saturday Mint Schedule between New York (JFK) and St. Maarten (SXM)

Beginning February 16, 2019

JFK – SXM Flight #1487 SXM- JFK Flight #1488

10:55 a.m. – 3:52 p.m.

5:30 p.m. – 9:07 p.m.

JetBlue's Airbus A321 With Mint Offers Every Customer A Better Flight

Mint offers a completely rethought design and a more personal approach to service, addressing the needs of the modern traveler. Mint features exceptional hospitality from specially trained crewmembers.

Favorite Mint features include lie-flat seating, a signature cocktail, a tapas-style menu by New York City restaurant Saxon + Parole, fresh espresso from the first purpose-built cappuccino machine for a U.S. airline, amenity kits by Hayward and Hopper, and dessert from local artisanal ice cream makers based in Mint cities.

Since launching in 2014, Mint has become a favorite way for celebrities, technology executives, creatives, and entrepreneurs to travel across the country. Mint was recognized by Fast Company's Innovation By Design Awards, which honors innovative and disruptive design that pushes boundaries and seeks to change the world.

All customers will benefit from JetBlue's new Airbus A321 with Mint aircraft, which features the airline's new core experience for customers seated throughout the entire aircraft.

Features of the A321 core interior include 10-inch television screens offering free entertainment, comfortable seats with the most legroom in coach (a) and power outlets accessible to all customers. JetBlue's popular marketplace, a self-serve station full of free snacks, sodas and water for customers to enjoy at their convenience, is also available throughout the flight. And all A321 aircraft offer JetBlue's free Fly-Fi high-speed broadband Internet service (b) and access to JetBlue's Hub content on personal devices and first-run Hollywood movies.

All JetBlue flights feature award-winning service with comfortable seating; complimentary and unlimited name-brand snacks; more than 100 channels of free SIRIUSXM® radio programming and 36 channels of free, live DIRECTV® programming on personal seatback televisions; free Fly-Fi high-speed wireless Internet (a), and the most legroom in coach (b).

About JetBlue Airways

JetBlue is New York's Hometown Airline®, and a leading carrier in Boston, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood, Los Angeles (Long Beach), Orlando, and San Juan. JetBlue carries more than 40 million customers a year to 102 cities in the U.S., Caribbean, and Latin America with an average of 1,000 daily flights. For more information please visit jetblue.com.

(a) Fly-Fi is not available on flights operating outside of the contiguous U.S. For flights originating outside of the contiguous U.S., Fly-Fi will be available once the aircraft returns to the coverage area. Fly-Fi is available on all JetBlue-operated flights.

(b) JetBlue offers the most legroom in coach based on average fleet-wide seat pitch for U.S. airlines.

(c) Schedules subject to change.

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That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

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

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 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)

08/13/18 #V2-1164 6:00 p.m. EDT 8/13/18 14.4

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