

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 9/17/18: Isaac; Hurricane Season Not Over; Timeshare Reopenings Changing; Moving to SXM; Tiko Tiko Sold; Recovery; Climate Change; Mosquitoes; Hospital; (32 News Stories)

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Vol. 2, #1169 --- Monday, September 17, 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: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored send-only email address. For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#) at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 308,000 people around the world...

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



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

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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

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32 News Stories This Week

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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 12/29/2018 1/5/2019 Week 52 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Newly renovated and fully equipped Studio, sleeps 2 (King bed, full kitchen, safe in room, AC, Cable TV, internet, Beaumontia Building/Lower B.) Next to large pool, tennis courts, parking. On premises: 5 pools, great beach, water sports and marina (tours depart daily), grocery store, ATM, fitness center, Spa, tennis courts, nightclub, casino, restaurants, sports bar, rental car, shops, security, children's playgrounds (land and water), activity program for adults and children, guest laundry, concierge. Walking distances to some of St. Maarten's best restaurants. \$1200 + SXM Resort Tax (\$50) mariebowman@pacbell.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/9/2019 3/30/2019 13-Oct **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort** Sleep 6, Floor 4, close to Marina building. Master suite can be used as sleep 4 with junior suite as lock off unit. Stay in one unit and rent out the other! Beautiful view of Simpson Bay with restaurants, jewelry store, casino, and grocery available on the resort and other restaurants available within walking distance. Balcony has full afternoon shade, perfect way to end your day on the beach. \$17,000 per week Deborah 412-952-7577 d_henle@msn.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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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. SXM Dodges a Bullet as Isaac Swirls Westward

The best news about Isaac is that it has now dissipated over the central Caribbean Sea. (But that is not the *rest* of the story.)

Isaac was the first storm since Maria (and since Irma) to come within roughly 125 miles of SXM. SXM certainly does not need any more angst from storms.

It's possible that as Isaac's remnants flow westward, they could regenerate...but that shouldn't last long and is no threat whatsoever to SXM.

As always, we are carefully watching the tropics along with you. For all the latest watches, warnings, and advisories, as well as satellite images and radar loops, plus storm track projections, go to our weather center at everythingxm.com, our main website.

2. Crown Weather: Hurricane Season "Not Over"

As hurricane season began on June 1, some meteorologists were predicting that the season would be front-loaded. There was activity early in the season, including the first named storm which actually formed in May. But Mother Nature has continued to show her independence as she has made this a back-loaded season, with most of the activity right now.

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown, head of CrownWeather.com, is reiterating that hurricane season is not over. The season is not scheduled to end for another 2 1/2 months — at the end of November, and Mr. Lightbown believes it won't be quiet.

For years, we've strongly recommended that people who live in the potential path of tropical cyclones subscribe to Rob's frequent seasonal tropical weather updates. They are extremely reliable in our experience and incredibly useful in making plans related to where you need to be and what you need to do in case any storms approach. Learn more at crownweather.com.

End of Summer SALE

*****SALE ENDS MONDAY SEPT. 24*****

**Get 300+ SXM Discounts,
Many Other Island Benefits,
& (P. S.) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:
Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership Today:**

New JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$44; 3 yrs. \$79; OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. just \$139.

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

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; OUR BEST: 6 yrs. \$129

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

3. 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.

4. 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.

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.

Keep

SXM Weekly News

**Coming to You
Every Week.**

JOIN JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS NOW.

**You'll get 300+ SXM discounts &
other benefits AND help support Weekly News.**

**Click the page curl at
everything~~s~~xm.com
to join!**

End of Summer Sale Ends Monday Sept. 24!

5. Immigration Raid at Maho

Some allegedly undocumented Venezuelan workers were found at the Sonesta Maho hotel and casino construction project recently during a government raid. The number of people involved was small and we would expect will have no impact on planned reopenings in the Maho complex. Please also see story 6.

6. Royal Islander La Plage Reopening October 27 - Maybe

One of our readers contacted Royal Islander recently concerning a future visit and received this reply about when La Plage expects to reopen:

"We are recovering and re-building getting back to normalcy.

"There is a tentative re-opening date for October 27th, 2018. However, the date has not yet been confirmed due to ongoing works that is (sic!) awaiting completion for a confirmation of said re-opening date.

"Thanks for your continued care and concern."

Kindest regards,
Marie Fearon
Administrative Assistant

7. Towers' November Reopening In Jeopardy?

The long-anticipated reopening of the Towers at Mullet Bay, previously announced as this November, may now be in jeopardy.

Here is the latest from the Towers:

Dear valued guest,

As a number of you have been asking for an update and seeking clarity on the moratorium that was placed in the towers by the central bank.

As a result of the moratorium the construction has been put on hold pending a review, which makes our November 1, 2018 scheduled reopening questionable. Unfortunately we are unable to give any future reopening date.

Please rest assured that in spite of this delay, your investment at the towers is secured, and once they go ahead with the repairs are given every effort will be made to speed up the process, so you can start enjoying your home away from home.

In our previous update we informed you of exactly what is being done at the towers, nothing has changed, you will continue where we left off, I assure you that you will like the new changes.

We will continue to keep you informed and regret any inconvenience.

*Sincerely
Clarence Derby
general manager*

After publishing his comments on the Towers at Mullet Bay Facebook Site, Mr. Derby received an earful from a number of resort timeshare owners. It was not made clear in his comments what exactly the moratorium was that was placed on the Towers by the central bank.

The good news is that resort has already said that 80% of its rooms have been renovated, assuming we understand the comments correctly. If that's the case, perhaps all that needs to be done is a few weeks of work. We'll keep watching this for you. If you receive any information from the resort, please forward it to us at *SXM Weekly News*. Although we read all your mail, we cannot reply individually except to JMB Website Supporters members writing to Membership Services.

8. Timeshare Rentals Listings Updated; See Hundreds

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 as summer nears its end.. Get your rental weeks now. (Ads on those pages are from JMB Website Supporters members exclusively.)

9. Thanksgiving Week Seminar Coming on Relocating to SXM

Plans are advancing for a JMB Website Supporters members seminar/party on November 20 on SXM concerning both purchasing property on the island and relocating there.

We expect the presentation to be concise but thorough, examining all aspects of the process as they relate to foreigners buying on either side of the island.

The tentative location of this event is expected to be a large new restaurant not far from Philipsburg that is getting rave reviews from visitors and locals. So, this event will not only provide you with a great deal of useful information from our real estate partners, Arun Jagtiani's Island Real Estate Team, but at the same time it will also give you a great initial visit to this new, top-of-the-line restaurant set in a beautiful location. The date is expected to be November 20, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We are working on all the details now. As soon that process is complete, we will formally announce this event to our JMB Website Supporters members. Like most of our island events, we expect this seminar/party to be a members-only event however at this point we expect to encourage our members to invite some of their friends who also are interested in relocating to SXM to come to the seminar with them, provided all are pre-registered. There may also be a charge for nonmembers to attend.

As soon as everything has been finalized, we will email JMB Website Supporters and announce initial registration. A similar announcement will also be published here in *SXM Weekly News*, although this event is not expected to morph into something public. *If you are interested in attending this event or any other JMB members-only parties, we strongly suggest you join JMB Website Supporters and take advantage of the hundreds of discounts and benefits it offers. You can find out more by clicking the page curl on the homepage of our main site, everythingSXM.com. A Sale is currently underway but it ends very soon.*

In answer to many questions that have already been posed to us, we do expect this event to be recorded, and we hope to make that recording available to all JMB Website Supporters members through our members-only secret website. Attendance will be limited, so after you receive the details from us, we urge you to preregister quickly.

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

End of Summer SALE

*****SALE ENDS MONDAY SEPT. 24*****

**Get 300+ SXM Discounts,
Many Other Island Benefits,
& (P. S.) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:
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http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; BUT GET OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. \$129
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

11. Tiko Tiko Sold

For those of you who don't know, Tiko Tiko is the sailing catamaran used for clothing optional voyages from Club Orient.

In a cryptic message to customers, Tiko Tiko made known this week that the catamaran has been sold. This was the message:

I am sad to say the Tiko Tiko has been sold. The good news though is Captain Philippe is currently in negotiation to purchase a hotel to be able to welcome his guests back to the island...we will keep you posted..

*She was a good ship, together we weathered many storms...
JP (marketing & reservations)*

We contacted Club Fantastico, the villa-based hilltop naturist resort overlooking orient bay, to see whether they may be Philippe's takeover hotel target, but one of the site managers there said Fantastico "is not on the market."

When we find out more, we'll publish it here.

12. Why "Low Season" Isn't

As summer vacations end, kids return to school, owners of some SXM restaurants head off on their annual closing, people return to work, and we all see the statistical height of hurricane season warily in our rearview mirror, people throughout the Caribbean declare that we are in low season.

Although there are still thousands of tourists on the island, things are less busy than high season — but we altogether disagree with the term *low season*, since a lot is actually going on.

Nowhere during the season is more going on concerning SXM than in low season. People are assessing itineraries, booking flights not already booked during summer, making sure their accommodations are set, and they're actively conversing with many other tourists and friends about what's happening on the island. We know that because during the month of September, we generally have somewhere in the neighborhood of 65,000 interactions between members and our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). That's busy, and it certainly is not "low." It's when people are actively making detailed plans for what they'll do on their next visit, regardless of whether it's in the fall, November, or "high season," from November on through Regatta and beyond to Carnival.

In fact, we'd like to see the term low season abolished altogether.

To do that, *the French and Dutch sides of the island need to cooperate even more fully with joint tourism promotion starting now. Summer is essentially over, and people throughout the USA, Canada, and much of Europe are looking forward, pardon the expression, to winter, the time many detest for its biting cold temperatures, icy roads, and blizzards. SXM should be leveraging that widespread hatred of the cold with tempting ads about the island's amazing beaches, it's many fully renovated resort properties, its hundreds of gorgeous villas, and its many hundreds of incredible restaurants. Advertising is an investment that is long overdue and could certainly come from some of the funds already allocated to be paid to the island by the World Bank for the island's recovery. How can you recover if you don't spend money to promote and advertise?*

13. Leader Price Supermarket Reopens

Leader Price Supermarket, the smallish market between Orient beach and Grand Case near the French Side airport, has now reopened — and there are a few reasons it is worth your consideration.

First, it has always had good Baguettes and a limited assortment of other breads and pastries.

Second, it has a very nice assortment of general grocery items, despite its small size.

Third, and new since Irma, the T-shirt store that sells the **one life, one love, one island** items is now next door instead of off Orient beach.

Check it out.

14. Details About SXM's Recovery Coming to Our Site

The Dutch side presentation made this past week on the island provided some interesting information about the status of the island's recovery from hurricane Irma.

We have obtained a copy of the two PowerPoint presentations involved and we plan this week occasionally to drop significant facts from them into posts on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). Do check it out — it's very interesting stuff.

15. Dutch Side's Financial Position Better Than Expected

The Dutch side's Recovery from hurricane Irma has not only happened faster than expected, it is more complete and more financially successful than projected. Here are [the details](#).

16. Sargassum Seaweed Temporarily Visits Maho

Sargassum seaweed from the Sargasso Sea well north and east of the Caribbean islands appeared in the Maho area this past week. Most of the time in the past, the annoying seaweed has affected primarily East facing beaches — but Maho faces the West to Southwest.

Several people told us that they believed wind conditions related to the far distant major hurricane Florence pushed the errant seaweed toward Maho, and they expected tradewinds returning to normal to blow it back out to sea.

Hopefully, they're right.

17. Climate Change: Solar Lighting in Orange Grove, LED Elsewhere

People around the world are beginning to realize that climate change is a reality. A video produced a number of years ago entitled St. Maarten past, present, and future graphically illustrated possible future effects of climate change on the island.

People are paying attention. New solar lighting was recently installed in the Orange Grove area on the Dutch side and a great deal of LED lighting is now in use across the island.

Tourists can have a positive effect on the environment by reducing the use of electricity generated by expensive and polluting burning of fossil fuels.

Here are several suggestions: 1) turn off the air conditioning in your hotel room or condo when you are not there; the unit will cool down quickly when you return; 2) take faster, cooler showers; 3) if you are in a unit for an extended period, replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs; 4) use automobile air conditioning only when absolutely necessary; 5) join in the discussion on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) by posting your own ideas on saving energy.

18. Info About Dengue Fever

Although there hasn't been much of it around recently, dengue fever is one of the serious illnesses that can be transmitted by Aedes-Aegypti mosquitoes. Unlike ordinary mosquitoes, these are black with white joints in their legs, much different from ordinary mosquitoes.

They can also carry viruses that can cause Chikungunya, Zika, the West Nile virus which is relatively common in the US, and other serious illnesses. Governments on both sides of SXM take the threat from mosquito borne illnesses seriously and carry on regular programs of spraying and other means of disease prevention.

You can help protect yourself from mosquito borne illnesses. Island pharmacies and certain other stores carry a product called Mosquito Milk. Available in a roll-on, this concoction includes lemongrass and other ingredients designed to repel mosquitoes, who hate the fragrance of lemongrass. If you like, you can also buy a handheld bug zapper on the island, although similar but larger products sold in the US may be less expensive and more powerful (Ocean State Job Lot, in New England, has 3350-volt models for \$5). To prevent problems, never have batteries in such devices when they are in transit in your suitcase or elsewhere.

Here's [much more on dengue](#).

19. Dump Fire Case To Be In Court 9/27

As we previously reported, litigants are taking the Dutch side and the operators of the Dutch side dump to court in an effort to compel both to put an end to the fires that have plagued the Dutch side dump behind Philipsburg and everyone who lives or works anywhere nearby.

The case is finally going to court; here are [details](#).

20. Dutch Side Hospital Gets USD\$25-Million Grant

The grant, from the World Bank, is designed to ensure that construction of the new St. Maarten Medical Center, coming soon, will be at a level that can ensure the integrity of the medical center through a category five hurricane similar to Irma. Here are the [details](#).

The Grant will also improve the quality of services currently provided by the hospital.

21. SkyMed On Sale for \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available

**Just \$1.35/day* for SkyMed's BEST
Family Peace-of-Mind Medevac Protection:**

Protect All Your Upcoming Travel Worldwide

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 --

like fire insurance.

See www.getskymed.com for details,

or call Jeff for answers to questions

during office hours, EDT:

508-747-8281

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

***Applies to annual & multiyear SkyMed memberships. ExPat membership pricing differs.**

Global coverage is included in Ultimate memberships, and an inexpensive option on annual memberships.

Annual memberships "Take You Home" when you travel in the USA, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage includes the rest of the world except places on the U. S. State Department Watch List.

22. This Is Personal...

**Because My Son Scott
Has Had Two Brain Tumors,
My #1 Passion is Fighting Brain Tumors.**

**If You Like Saquon Barkley,
Running Back of the New York Giants,
Pick Up [This Autographed Jersey](#) -- and you'll
help fight brain tumors at the same time.**

**To Donate, please go to my personal FB site,
<https://www.facebook.com/jeff.berger1>
and click the Donate Button on the post,
"Walking to end brain tumors."**

Thank you!

**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](#)

23. 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 everythingsexm.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.

24. 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.

More stories follow.

End of Summer SALE
Sale Ends Monday Sept. 24
Act Today!

Get 300+ SXM Discounts,
Many Other Island Benefits,
& (P. S.) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:
Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership Today:

New JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$44; 3 yrs. \$79; OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. just \$139.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; OUR BEST: 6 yrs. \$129
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

25. 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...

26. "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.

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?

27. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

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](#)

Art of Time (new)

Artistic Jewelers (new)

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*.

Heavily Updated 9/16/18

28. 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](#).

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

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

30. Restaurant of the Week:

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

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 8/26/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 8/20/18, see story 20) 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 Sushitto) (6/18/18) is the new name of Sushitto, 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.

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 has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and

reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15) Reopening in September.

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.

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; dinner reopens in October (annual closing for Dinner).

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/27/17) Reopened quickly.

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

The following restaurants are all closed permanently thanks to Irma.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 5/1/17). Big Fish has closed but will reopen later this year; different ownership expected and probably a new menu / name.

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.

The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16 Just got insurance settlement, not yet reopened.

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14) Stone is permanently closed.

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. Sold by Lal to new owners, but same kitchen staff and menu.

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.

FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse Had closed permanently before Irma hit.

Bylbos, 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.

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

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

31. 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.

32. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

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

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

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

<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)

09/17/18 #V2-1169 900 pm EDT 9/15/18 9.3

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