

From JMB / SXM Weekly News Special Edition 4/8/19: French Side General Strike Coming; Us; Vacation Giveaway; Roxy; Lee's; Hurricane Outlook; Florida-SXM Fare War; 737 MAX; Caravanserai Updates; Sapphire; Sonesta; Belair; Relocation Seminar [39 News Stories]

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**Vol. 2, #1194 --- Monday, April 8, 2019**  
**News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

## **Member News**

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

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

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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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 320,000 people around the world...**

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

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**TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:**

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

**Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:**

**Weather; Getting Here:**

- 2019 Hurricane Season Outlook
- Cheap JetBlue Lauderdale Flights A Mammoth Home Run

- **MINT Service Coming on JetBlue's Boston-SXM Nonstops**
- **JetBlue Enhancing Cabins & Adding Seats on Workhorse A320s**

#####

- **Fare War Breaks Out from Florida to SXM**

#####

- **737 Max Issues Are Nowhere Near Over**

**SXM Accommodations:**

- **Sidhom Appealing Caravanserai T/S Owners' Victory**
- **Sidhom Building "The Morgan" Resort at Caravanserai**
- **Sonesta Maho Officially Reopens**
- **Sapphire Beach Club Partially Open**
- **Facebook Page Devoted to SXM Timesharing**
- **How Belair Beach Hotel Survived Irma**
- **Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of**
- **SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online**
- **Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated)**

**Island Headlines for Tourists:**

#####

- **French Side General Strike Starts Thursday**

#####

- **Where Were We?**

#####

- **Our SXM Vacation Giveaway Is Monday April 15**
- **Roxy About to Open**
- **Lee's Close to Opening**
- **Dutch Side Expands Drone No-Fly Zones**
- **Heads Up: Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins**
- **Zika Warnings Eased for Pregnant Travelers**
- **Restaurant of the Week: Avantika**
- **Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com**

#####

- **Traveling Anywhere This Summer? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now**

#####

#####

- **Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed: Customer Stories**

#####

- **Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate**

- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**

#####

- **Got SXM Questions? Here's Where The Answers Are**
- **SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic**

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

**39 News Stories This Week**

**Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents**

**Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

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### **SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:**

**RENTAL** 3/7/2020 3/21/2020 Week 10, Week 11 **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Master and Junior Suites together accommodate 6 people.** Master consists of a full kitchen, king size bed/master bedroom, 2 Murphy beds/living room, spacious bathroom with separate double vanity area. Beautiful, large deck overlook Simpson Bay. Junior suite (lock out) has 2 full beds, small kitchen, and a spacious bathroom with a separate double vanity. The resort has a fitness center, multiple pools, and everything you would expect from a five star resort. \*\*All boat excursions are located onsite and available directly from the resort. The Simpson Bay restaurants are all within walking distance. Timeshare tax (approximately \$50) is not included in the rental price. \$2,400.00 per week. Rosanne 609-613-0728 [mess113@yahoo](mailto:mess113@yahoo).

### **SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

**SALE** 1/19/2020 1/25/2020 Week 3 Divi Little Bay Two bedroom ground floor beachfront Villa. Beautiful views of Little Bay Beach from the three balconies, one off each bedroom and one off the living room. There are two full bathrooms, one with jetted tub, a washer and dryer, a full kitchen plus a half kitchen in the second bedroom. and three flat screen TV's with a DVD player in the living room. This unit sleeps 6 with a king size bed in each bedroom and a pull out queen sofa in the living room. The resort has three restaurants, three pools, one with a swim up bar, hot tubs, onsite market, jewelry store, and gift shops. Spa and watersports are also on property. Divi is close to Philipsburg shopping and car rental available on site. 14,999,00 Karen (413) 4431958 [mzdayzee@aol.com](mailto:mzdayzee@aol.com)

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](#)**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories**

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

### **"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Site:**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/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](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](http://www.linkedin.com)

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[http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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

1. 2019 Hurricane Season Outlook
2. 2019 Hurricane Names (Are You Here?)
3. Sunwing Returns to SXM
4. Cheap JetBlue Lauderdale Flights A Mammoth Home Run
5. MINT Service Coming on JetBlue's Boston-SXM Nonstops
6. JetBlue Enhancing Cabins & Adding Seats on Workhorse A320s
7. Fare War Breaks Out from Florida to SXM
8. Join Real Rock Stars on a Caribbean Cruise
9. 737 Max Issues Are Nowhere Near Over
10. See Current SXM Weather Info

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

11. Sidhom Appealing Caravanserai T/S Owners' Victory
12. Sidhom Building "The Morgan" Resort at Caravanserai
13. Sonesta Maho Officially Reopens
14. Sapphire Beach Club Partially Open
15. Facebook Page Devoted to SXM Timesharing
16. How Belair Beach Hotel Survived Irma
17. Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of
18. SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online
19. Get Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide
20. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated)

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

**Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits [Go To This Section](#)**

21. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

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

22. French Side General Strike Starts Thursday
23. Where Were We?
24. Our SXM Vacation Giveaway Is Monday April 15
25. Roxxy About to Open
26. Lee's Close to Opening
27. Dutch Side Expands Drone No-Fly Zones
28. Heads Up: Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins
29. Zika Warnings Eased for Pregnant Travelers
30. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika
31. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com

=====

32. Traveling in July or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now

=====

33. \*\*\*\*\*Customer Stories\*\*\*\*\* Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed:

=====

34. Are You Military?
35. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
36. SXM Vacation Giveaway Drawing Coming
37. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
38. Use Our SXM Weekly News Archives
39. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

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

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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)**

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**THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

**1. 2019 Hurricane Season Outlook**

The 2019 hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. Rob Lightbown of [Crown Weather](#), our go-to source for weather info year round, says the coming season is likely to have slightly fewer storms than usual; that it will likely calm down in the Caribbean from August through October because of cooler-than-normal ocean temps between the Lesser Antilles and Africa; and that storms are more likely north of the islands, possibly affecting the US Gulf or East Coast.

Of course, all it takes is one storm to screw up the season. But for SXM this forecast is as good as it gets. As always, we'll be watching things closely in our Weather Center on our main site, [everythingsxm.com](http://everythingsxm.com). However, if where you live or work is ever in the path of tropical storms or hurricanes, go to [Crown Weather](#) and subscribe to their services. It's inexpensive and will give you all the info you need to do what you need to do in the event a storm approaches your area.

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**About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:**

**Get 300+ SXM Discounts  
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### **New JMB memberships: Low Prices!**

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml)

### **Renewal JMB memberships: Low Prices!**

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

### **Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!**

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

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## **2. 2019 Hurricane Names (Are You Here?)**

Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Imelda, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, and Wendy.

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## **3. Sunwing Returns to SXM**

Canadian airline Sunwing has now returned to St. Maarten. The initial flight several weeks ago was greeted with the customary shower of water over the aircraft as it approached the terminal, provided by the Princess Juliana Airport fire department.

With flights from most major Canadian cities now restored by Sunwing, Air Canada, WestJet, and Rouge, Canadian airlift is getting closer to normal.

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## **4. Cheap JetBlue Lauderdale Flights A Mammoth Home Run**

Before JetBlue recently began its daily nonstop flights from Fort Lauderdale to SXM, nonstops from the Miami area were often priced in the \$500 range by dominant carrier American Airlines.

Offering \$220 roundtrips, JetBlue was eating American Airlines' lunch, something about which AA was a bit less than gleeful.

JetBlue has already said that it is more than happy with the load factor of these new flights, which provide excellent connections to SXM for people from throughout the southeast. In fact, the availability of nonstops from Fort Lauderdale every morning now enables many travelers from the West Coast to get to SXM faster than ever before. Fort Lauderdale is a JetBlue focus city, JB's marketing language for a hub. Many JetBlue flights from across the country go to Fort Lauderdale. Consequently, if you live anywhere on the West Coast in a city served by JetBlue with flights to Fort Lauderdale, *chances are good you now have red eye connections to SXM available daily.*

Lauderdale flights to SXM leave first thing in the morning, which means you get to the island this time of year shortly after 10:30 AM, before the airport gets very busy.

JetBlue is also enhancing its service to SXM in general, adding more mint flights from New York. Please see the next story, which is related.

## 5. MINT Service Coming on JetBlue's Boston-SXM Nonstops

Part of JetBlue's strategy in recent years has been to enhance its offerings for people who crave first class seating but who recoil at sitting in what some people call the Big Blue bus.

Although JetBlue aircraft do offer early boarding, lots of legroom in coach, and advance boarding for passengers who pay extra, it still doesn't offer full first class amenities. But it does offer Mint service, for a hefty premium over its regular priced tickets. Mint offers lie flat seating and more — special amenities that cost far more on traditional carriers, if they are available at all. Now,

JetBlue has announced that it will be rolling out Mint service on its nonstop flights from Boston to St. Maarten starting this fall, a huge lure for many passengers still flying with competitive airlines. JetBlue also is increasing its MINT service from JFK. It also continues to be the only airline offering seasonal nonstops to SXM from Boston.

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## 6. JetBlue Enhancing Cabins & Adding Seats on Workhorse A320s

The vast majority of jetBlue aircraft are currently built by Airbus — it has no Boeing aircraft in its fleet, and within the next couple of years, it will have an entirely Airbus fleet, since it is replacing its Embraer E190 aircraft with new Airbus A220 aircraft starting soon.

Meanwhile, jetBlue's workhorse A320 aircraft are being refitted with new cabins. The main cabin of jetBlue A320 aircraft is pretty much what it was when the planes were first being added to the fleet about 15 years ago. Last Sunday, March 31, we flew on one of the newly renovated A320 aircraft on a flight from SXM to Boston.

Although the seats are thinner than before, they now use memory foam so passengers realize the same amount of comfort as always. There is also no discernible difference in legroom - though the thinner seats have enabled jetBlue to add two new rows of seats to its A320s, increasing capacity from 150 to 162 people. The biggest change in our view is a vastly improved entertainment system with much bigger, high resolution 1080p screens and far more capabilities. The process just started recently, and so far, an airline official told us roughly 7 aircraft have been completed.

Our trip was enhanced by the fact that one of the movies being shown in the new entertainment system was Bohemian Rhapsody. The 1080P display was super sharp and the stereo music was crystal clear and had great range. The fleet makeover won't be completed until some time in 2021. It was interesting to us that the airline chose to use one of these aircraft on its SXM to Boston flight, a recognition by jetBlue airline of just how much demand there is for travel between the island and Boston.

JetBlue's increases in capacity between SXM and points of embarkation in the US is far from over. Within the next couple of years, we fully expect jetBlue to be flying to SXM from another city on the East Coast — we suspect that will be BWI, Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

Stay tuned.

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## 7. Fare War Breaks Out from Florida to SXM

Historically, when jetBlue enters a new city, airfares plummet.

JetBlue has chosen Fort Lauderdale as its newest point of embarkation to SXM, as we predicted here a long time ago and as we reported when it happened several weeks back. We also said that fares in the area would be declining. In fact, JetBlue's fares are currently around \$220 round-trip to SXM from Fort Lauderdale.

American Airlines had previously owned this market but the airfares were typically in the \$500 round-trip range. JetBlue has not merely upset their applecart, it has roasted all their apples and eaten every last one. Finally getting the point that its fares were too high, American has responded with a fare war against jetBlue. AA fares from Miami have now dropped to a point where they are similar to what JetBlue is currently offering from Lauderdale.



At the moment, that makes fares from both airlines very reasonable. However, JetBlue planes offer more legroom in coach than American, better entertainment options, and lots of free food, albeit mostly snacks. JetBlue is not going away, a fact that American needs to get used to. AA will need to do much more to retain its passengers than simply cut prices. Many AA passengers are unhappy with the airline for a variety of reasons, as they have expressed on our [Everything SXM Facebook site](#).

This will continue to be interesting and we will continue to report on it.

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## 8. Join Real Rock Stars on a Caribbean Cruise

We've seen other cruises before with aging rockers aboard to entertain passengers — but this particular cruise seems to have one of the best lineups we've heard about. If you are into rock and cruising, this will be interesting. Here's [the link](#). (This link may not be dependable; you can trim it and call the station for more info.)

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## 9. 737 Max Issues Are Nowhere Near Over

American Airlines has just announced that it has continued the cancellation of 737 MAX flights into June, 2019. Boeing, for now, is reimbursing airlines for the cost they are enduring thanks to their inability to fly Boeing's grounded MAX airplanes.

Two Boeing 737 MAX aircraft crashed in the last several months, killing all aboard, thanks to complex issues that investigators are still trying to figure out. Part of the problem was the aircraft's MCAS system which is designed to avert stalls in certain circumstances.

But as investigators into one of the crashes recently discovered, even when flight crewmembers followed Boeing directions explicitly, their airplane was going far faster than it should have been and they could not bring it under control. There appears to be far more to this than just a software fix on the MCAS system.

It is also evident that since the 737 MAX is a derivative aircraft, some of the approval process was handled by Boeing itself despite what in hindsight are clearly radical changes. It also appears that some of the FAA inspectors who were involved in certification of the aircraft may themselves have been inadequately trained. About 300 people died in the two 737 MAX crashes. It could easily be several more months before this mystery has been thoroughly unraveled; the extent of the problems thoroughly understood; and foolproof solutions and training methodology completed and enacted. And just because Boeing says things are ok, countries are unlikely to recertify the planes until they are satisfied that's the truth, through exhaustive testing.

This could happen to any aircraft manufacturer — but it happened to Boeing. We wish them well on a 100% fix and on new processes and procedures that will never allow a terrible fatal blunder like this to recur.

Much more on the 737 MAX situation is [here](#).

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## 10. See Current SXM Weather / Weather

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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## **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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

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

## **11. Sidhom Appealing Caravanserai T/S Owners' Victory**

Ray Sidhom, the credit card magnate who bought Caravanserai Beach Resort a few years ago and immediately emailed timeshare owners there to tell them he was voiding their contracts, isn't happy that yet another SXM court weeks ago decided that litigating timeshare owners were right and that Sidhom had to compensate them for the property he took from them.

So instead of compensating them, he has again appealed this loss in court, and is taking it to the Hague.

Well, surprise of surprises, Mr. Sidhom, TOCA — the tenants association of litigating Caravanserai owners — isn't going to play dead for you: they, too, are going to the Hague with their likely intent of having you laughed out of court. Since Mr. Sidhom, as far as we know, has yet to win any court cases he has had with relation to his Caravanserai property, it wouldn't surprise us in the least if he loses this one, too.

We'll keep you posted. Please see the next story, which is related.

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## **12. Sidhom Building "The Morgan" Resort at Caravanserai**

It continues to be interesting to us to watch how Ray Sidhom works.

After Caravanserai timeshare owners won their most recent court battle against him, *TOCA put a lien on the main building at Caravanserai to make sure that Sidhom was not allowed to touch it until after the court case was completely resolved.*

We have photographs that allegedly show construction activity undertaken by people working for Sidhom at one of the buildings for which the lien is supposedly in force. If it is true, as some allege, that construction is occurring despite a lien that forbids it, then that construction may be a violation of the court order which was designed to prevent any changes in that building.

Mr. Sidhom has announced that he is now building a new resort called the Morgan at the site of the old Caravanserai, where he had already changed the name to Alegria. Apparently intent upon putting a new shade of lipstick on the same old squirmy pig that he had previously renamed, sources *are* alleging that construction is indeed underway and that the renaming has already been officially announced.

The court hasn't reacted yet to allegations that there may be a violation of a court order here by virtue of this alleged construction activity. St. Maarten courts have not been happy with Mr. Sidhom's prior lawsuits, so our hunch is they are likely to be far less than elated if it is found that he violated a court order.

If you're curious about what the Morgan is going to be, here is [its website](#).

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## 13. Sonesta Maho Officially Reopens

Last November when we first visited SXM, work on the Sonesta Maho was really just beginning in earnest. You could still pretty much look through the building.

With a tremendous amount of help from skilled Asian labor, the Sonesta Maho heavy renovations and rebuilding have now been largely completed and the hotel has reopened for business.

Not everything is done, and the opening days had their share of drama as food services were limited and many guests were unhappy. But in fairness to the resort, and to all those who have worked on it, the result looks beautiful and the resort is quickly ironing out wrinkles in its new operation.

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## 14. Sapphire Beach Club Partially Open

Sapphire Beach Club has never been particularly good at communicating with its timeshare owners — or with anyone else. So it has taken some digging to find out what is going on at that resort which, from the outside, still sports a not ready for prime time look.

As we understand it, somewhere over a dozen rooms are now available for timeshare owners, while many more continue to be occupied by contract workers involved in the reconstruction of the property. No management people are authorized to talk on behalf of developer Philippe Verdier, who has continued to ignore inquiries. Nonetheless, we went inside Sapphire and talked to some people there. As far as they knew, they were talking to some tourist. They told us that they expect to be fully reopened by early in 2020. No one would venture to define exactly what fully reopened means (we asked), nor would they define what exactly they mean by early in 2020; a few weeks makes a big difference to a lot of timeshare owners.

We will continue to find out what we can about the future of this property.

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## 15. Facebook Page Devoted to SXM Timesharing

We in recent weeks have reenergized our Facebook page devoted to Timesharing in SXM, following on events at Caravanserai Resort/Alegria/"The Morgan"; Sapphire Resort; Flamingo; Royal Palm; Ocean Club (see related story below); and of course the now infamous Towers at Mullet Bay.

It now appears that at both Flamingo and Royal Palm, timeshare owners are receiving bills without being able to use their timeshare units, the renovation of which is really just beginning.

At the Towers at Mullet Bay Resort, units are being offered to the general public / contractors for rental — but not to

timeshare owners, many of whom are loudly unhappy about this turn of events.

We're not certain whether timeshare owners are angrier at the resorts or at the government of St. Maarten for what they allege is inadequate timeshare owner consumer protection legislation.

If you own timesharing on the island and would like to communicate with other timeshare owners, nearly a thousand of them are now on our SXM timesharing page on Facebook. Please [click this link](#) to go there. Please don't forget to answer the vetting questions to join the group.

On our SXM Timesharing page on FB, we'll soon post how to make noise on SXM about what you're going through at the above resorts.

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## 16. How Belair Beach Hotel Survived Irma

Belair Beach Hotel, which reopened about a year ago for its timeshare owners, did suffer significant damage from Irma — but compared to other resorts it was barely touched.

How did that happen?

When the resort was built, the people behind it wanted a place that would survive even unimaginable hurricanes. It was built using reinforced concrete — far different from wood that was prevalent in those times. Irma blew in with 185 mile-per-hour sustained winds and gusts well over 200, and of course there were effects from flying debris and storm surge when Irma hit more than a year and 1/2 ago.

Thankfully from the standpoint of timeshare owners, Belair Beach Hotel's owners didn't wait for insurance proceeds to come in before starting heavy repairs on Belair. Working with new on-site director Patricia "Energy" Evans and Belair's loyal, hard-working staff, resort owners put up their own money to make the place look great and enable it to quickly reopen its doors for all of its timeshare owners. It became one of the island's many timeshare success stories post-Irma, just as Simpson Bay Resort and Divi Little Bay and Oyster Bay Beach Resort and others were. Many properties have done an amazing job of getting back in business quickly even as some others still lag behind.

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## 17. Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of

*Spacious New Townhouses on Simpson Bay Beach:*

If you've been thinking about moving to SXM but are turned off by large condo developments and have an urge to be on the beach in a place that is state-of-the-art strong, gorgeous, functional, and reasonably priced, we may just have found it for you on Simpson Bay beach, near its quiet northern end.

Drake Residences is built using quad-lock® insulating concrete forms construction which delivers rugged durability as well as great soundproofing.

There beachfront location consists of a four-story beachfront tower and five spacious townhouses, all offering beachfront access.

Construction is state-of-the-art using strong, steel reinforced concrete which is fire resistant, ultra-energy-efficient, with high wind resistance, impact resistance, seismic resistance, and flood resistance as well.

Drake Residences also offers true luxury, with modern design; an Italian kitchen; a waterfall island; floating staircases; all in a spacious, private, turnkey location. Preconstruction prices begin at just \$850,000; construction is about to begin. This is the last buildable lot on Simpson Bay beach and at these prices, you can expect Drake Residences to be sold out quickly.

If you'd like detailed information directly from the developer (whom you may well already know), email Jeff at [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com). Include your email and phone number with the subject **Drake Residences**. We'll put you in direct contact with the developer himself so he can tell you all the details. This is the most attractive, incredibly durable beachfront property we've seen in SXM in many years, and it is brand-new construction. Photos have been posted on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

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## 18. SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online

Just before last Thanksgiving, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM relocation seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November seminar is now available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else you have in mind.

You can see the video now, [here](#).

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## 19. Get Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide

*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.

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## 20. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Revised 2/19)

With most timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, La Vista, Simpson Bay Resort, Port de Plaisance, and Oyster Bay Beach now open too -- timeshare owners continue to post units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com). Check them out.

Get your rental weeks now. Note: ads on those pages are from JMB Website Supporters members exclusively.

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**SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits**

## **21. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- New Update**

We've recently updated the site to reflect ongoing changes on the island.

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

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**SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features**

### **About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:**

**[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: Low Prices!](#)**

**[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)**

**[Renewal JMB memberships: Low Prices!](#)**

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

**[Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!](#)**

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

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## **22. French Side General Strike Starts Thursday**

A general strike has been called on the French side of the island. Unless it is averted at the last minute, which is not expected, the strike will begin Thursday and affect every business and every government function on the French side of the island.

Worse, it could drag beyond Thursday.

If you are on the island and staying on the French side, we urge you to plan to stay at your resort and/or stock up on food. Roads there may be impassable while this is going on and we expect most businesses to be forced to close. Travel will be very difficult.

You can stay aware of events as they unfold by paying attention to news sites such as Island92 radio, 91.9 FM or Island92.com, and of course the [Daily Herald](#) on the Dutch Side. We will also share news on our [Everything SXM](#)

[Facebook site](#) as we receive it.

The Dutch side will not be directly affected by the general strike on the French side. While the strike is underway, we urge people staying on the Dutch side to stay away from the French side which is likely to be rather paralyzed. Expect beaches on the Dutch side to be very busy and restaurants to be mobbed: reservations are essential on the Dutch side since French side restaurants may be very difficult to get to and may well be closed.

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## 23. Where Were We?

*SXM Weekly News* has been published Since 1992, when it had 28 readers, about a dozen stories per issue, and was published twice monthly. Today it has 326,000+ readers worldwide, and is usually published religiously every Monday.

So, where were we the last few weeks?

As Jeff explained in a brief letter emailed to *SXM Weekly News* readers several days back, he had to take what was a totally unexpected break for a business opportunity. Here's the story: "In December, I was contacted by the people who publish Fodor's travel directories for destinations around the world. They asked me to help write their upcoming new edition of their legendary Essential Caribbean directory, which appears both on the web and in print. The web edition updates in the middle of this year and the print edition will be out sometime in November. I was given five islands to cover.

"It is an incredible honor to be asked to do this, and I jumped at the opportunity, especially since one of the islands is SXM. I flew to the other islands after working on the SXM portion much of February, then started writing. I had every intent of continuing to produce *SXM Weekly News* regularly as always, but the more deeply I got into the writing, the more there was to do, especially regarding SXM, hit hardest and changed the most by Irma. There have been ownership changes, telephone changes, management changes, feature changes, website changes, and literally thousands of other changes across the island. Multiply that by five islands and you can comprehend that my research, writing, and reporting task was Herculean. Everything but one island (thankfully not SXM) is now virtually completed, and there's one more to go which I expect to finish this week.

"Although I apologize for the lack of editions of weekly news during much of March, for the last few years we have invited people to become part of our [Everything SXM Facebook site](#) and in recent weeks we have use that vehicle along with special email messages to our JMB Website Supporters members to keep everyone posted about important developments on the island. We expect *this* Special Edition of *SXM Weekly News* to herald the resumption of regular weekly publication. I think you will find this edition catches you up to a large extent on what you may have missed over the last few weeks. If you are new to us we hope you enjoy receiving *Weekly News*, and we invite you to tell your SXM friends that they can subscribe, still for free, at [SXMWeeklyNews.com](#).

"Thank you for all your good wishes over the last few weeks. We greatly appreciate your sentiments about how much you missed weekly issues of *Weekly News* and are happy to be back."

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## 24. Our SXM Vacation Giveaway Is Monday April 15

During the spring and summer of 2017, we invited *SXM Weekly News* readers to enter our summertime vacation giveaway. We had planned to give away vacations in October, 2017, for use during the summer of 2019.

Irma interfered. Some of those weeks were in fact at resorts that no longer exist — among them Summit Resort Hotel and the Westin Resort and Casino, which has yet to announce whether it will in fact reopen at all (Dawn Beach Club, its timeshare operation, has reopened).

[Simpson Bay Resort](#), which had given us a week to give away, has stuck to its agreement so one of the weeks will be at Simpson Bay. A second week will be at the beautiful [El Zafiro hotel](#) on the serene Western end of Simpson Bay beach. And a third week has been generously donated to us by the folks at the beautiful [Belair Beach Hotel](#).

All three weeks will be given away on Island92 radio a week from today, on Monday, April 15, between 930 and 10 AM Eastern time (EDT) live on the air on island 92 radio at 91 point nine FM or [Island92.com](#). Although we intend to phone all the winners, the winners have already been selected and will know of by a week from now (next weekend) that they will be called that morning live on the air. So, keep an ear to your phone so you can be notified if you are one of the lucky winners. We hope to speak with you live on the air on Monday morning, April 15. Congratulations —



maybe..We had more than 40,000 entries to this giveaway.

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## 25. Roxxy About to Open

The much awaited new Roxxy Bar and Restaurant on Kim Sha Beach is about to open. Hopefully its opening and its performance after opening will be smoother than its runup to opening has been.

Roxxy has had its share of pre-opening issues.

First, it was told that it had built part of its bar on land owned by Royal Palm Beach, and was ordered to remove the offending part (a relatively small cement slab, according to the Nature Foundation.)

Then, it posted video of it dumping large amounts of sand onto the beach. The sand was fine white stuff, but all beaches on Dutch St. Maarten are public and are not to be touched by developers, according to the Nature Foundation and others. That was a second alleged issue.

Third, it built a wooden boardwalk on top of an existing rock jetty it allegedly does not own, which raised more red flags at the Nature Foundation. We're not sure if it has removed the boardwalk.

Fourth, the Dutch Side government (and many Royal Palm timeshare owners) have expressed concern that a bar open after midnight and offering live entertainment is to going to create so much incremental noise in the area that it could be a public nuisance, making it difficult or impossible for timeshare owners and others in the area to sleep. We know the government is keeping an eye on this but whether they will do anything to mitigate any problems that come about is unclear.

We always welcome new businesses to SXM; the island needs them, needs their jobs, and needs their tax revenue. We hope Roxxy proves itself to be environmentally responsible, a good neighbor to the area, and a welcome addition to the island economy. Their success and popularity is totally up to them.

We'll continue to watch this area for you.

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## 26. Lee's Close to Reopening

Lee's Roadside Grill, which has appeared to be close to reopening for the last several weeks, should, we expect, be open sometime this month. We've left messages for the Grill but have not yet heard from them. The last time we went by was a week ago and at that time, it looked like all they needed was to stock up and complete the availability of parking behind the building, if that's their intent. To us, the building looks just about done.

We'll keep you posted.

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## 27. Dutch Side Expands Drone No-Fly Zones

if you have a drone and were thinking of bringing it to SXM, a wiser choice might simply be to leave it at home: the Dutch side has greatly expanded no-fly zones for drones; here is that story:

No fly zones established for drones

**No fly zone beaches:** Maho Beach, Simpson Bay, Mullet Bay and Kimsha Beach. The Cabinet of TEATT in consultation with the Department of Civil Aviation, Shipping and Maritime has identified some key areas that will now be considered NO FLY ZONES by Ministerial Decree for drones and other remotely operated aircraft.

The restricted areas are as follows: Three (3) Kilometres from the Princess Juliana International Airport; 500 meters from the Harbour; 100 Meters from the Pointe Blanche House of Detention.

Drones are also not permitted within 50 meters of the following locations: Police Detention Centre in Simpson Bay, TELEM, St. Maarten Medical Centre, Fire Department in Cay Hill, Court House in Philipsburg, Coast Guard Office, Police Detention Centre in Philipsburg, Government Administration Building, GEBE, SOL & TEXACO, Power and Water Plants, Parliament Building, Central Bank of Curacao and St. Maarten's local headquarters, ISPS Marinas.

As indicated the zone for the airport is the largest as it is necessary to protect civil aviation. Three kilometre encompasses Maho Beach, Simpson Bay, Mullet Bay and Kimsha Beach. No drone activities will be permitted on these beaches. Exemptions and authorisations will only be possible for specific activities such as inspections, search and rescue operations, patrolling and or specified commercial activities. The request for the exemptions must go through the Department of Civil Aviation on Cannegeiter Street. These restrictions will be strictly enforced. (Source: Minister of TEATT)

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## 28. Heads Up: Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins

*The Nature Foundations would like to inform all stakeholders and beach users about the upcoming start of the 2019 sea turtle nesting season on St Maarten. These precious sea creatures come ashore during the nesting season which runs from April through November each year. The Nature Foundation actively manages and monitors the sea turtle nesting activities on St. Maarten since 1997, and also protects their habitat and nesting and foraging grounds in sea grass beds and on nesting beaches. Endangered Leatherbacks, Hawksbills and Green Sea turtles come ashore during the nesting season, the Foundation conducts various monitor activities with regard to nesting, including beach surveys, nest excavations, tagging activities, and nest success research.*

Much more on the nesting season - including places to avoid so you don't accidentally harm these endangered creatures -- is on the Nature Foundation website, [here](#).

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## 29. Zika Warnings Eased for Pregnant Travelers

Good news for pregnant women who would love to travel to the tropics: details [are here](#).

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## 30. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika

Avantika in Simpson Bay is clearly SXM's best Thai restaurant. It has no real competition. Now with two locations — one in SXM, and the other in Panama — Avantika offers great ambience, excellent service, and delicious, reasonably priced food.

It's easy to over-order at Avantika; the portions are large and you may fill up before finishing. , but that's no problem; we always take leftovers home and they are just as delicious the next day. The spring roll appetizers are excellent; every rice dish is perfectly prepared and very consistent from visit to visit (the one with cashews is wonderful); and they have a very good wine list.

For people on a gluten free diet, Avantika may be the best place on the island since most of its menu is gluten-free.

If you haven't been to Avantika or if you haven't tried Thai food, this is the place. You can order food that is not spicy at all or that is very spicy — none of that is an issue to the chefs here. Reservations are a must: Avantika quickly fills up. If you can't do stairs, no problem; there's an elevator in back on the right-hand side.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Avantika Thai** [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 4/8/19) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

**Spiga**, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 3/4/19) New menu; redesigned. New bar, great staff, service, and wonderful food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

**Mario Bistro** [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/) 2/25/19 Mario's Bistro is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining.

**Mama Pizza & Pasta**, featured 2/11/19, Porto Cupecoy.

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 2/4/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Sunday.

**Topper's** <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.

**Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar** (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

**Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto)** (1/7/19) 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.

**La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort** (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

**SkipJack's SXM**, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/24/18) SkipJack's triumphantly reopened with an entirely new dining deck late in January, 2019. Great place - go!

**Isola** next to Hollywood Casino in Simpson Bay Resort, 11/19/18. 100% redesigned, inside and out, floor to ceiling and everything inside. Just go.

**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.

**Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran**, [www.sailstmaarten.com](http://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.

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://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.

**St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge** Reopened.

**Jimbo's**, [www.jimboscafe.com](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

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

**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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## 31. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com

Our SkyMed website is [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com): please be sure you bookmark **getSkyMed.com** and not any other site. *When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently and effectively; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you.

SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

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## 32. Traveling in July or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now

**SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Without it, an emergency medical evacuation by air ambulance will cost you from \$35,000 to \$50,000 or more, sometimes much more, payable in cash in advance. Worse, you must get it before you need it - just like fire insurance.**

*Buy a new SkyMed multiyear five-year membership from us now by phoning us at 508-747-8281 (at about \$1.35/day price guaranteed for 10 years when we take your application by phone) and we'll give you a 10 year new or renewal JMB Website Supporters membership on us.* All you need to do is email us a copy of your welcome letter to SkyMed

after approval at [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed.

Of course we'll be happy to answer your questions and we can tell you about everything SkyMed offers. Totally up to you what type of coverage you select. Much more info about SkyMed is in the next story.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits [here](#).

**By buying annual protection now at only about \$1.35/day, pre-existing conditions will be covered in full after a brief 90-day waiting period. SkyMed covers you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage is available as well. For answers to your questions, call us today at 508-747-8281.**

See next story for much more on SkyMed. Offer ends soon.

Our SkyMed website is [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com): please be sure you bookmark **getSkyMed.com** and not any other site. *When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently and effectively; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you. SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

### 33. \*\*\*\*\*Customer Stories\*\*\*\*\* **Protect Against Pricey Emergency Medical Evacuations by Getting SkyMed:**

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

***Here are examples of SkyMed in action:***

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

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

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

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

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in 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.

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

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

### **More Info on SkyMed...**

On its guaranteed renewable annual and multiyear memberships, SkyMed has a 90-day waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions -- everything else is covered in full as soon as your SkyMed membership has been approved, per SkyMed's member services agreement.

If you're traveling in January or later, you can beat that one-time 90-day pre-existing conditions exclusion by joining today. That way the 90-day exclusion period will be over by the time you travel -- so you're covered in full, including pre-existing conditions, at that time.

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. There is no age limit to apply, and once you're enrolled you can renew without further medical checks regardless of your attained age or your health at the time of renewal. Without SkyMed, if you need an Emergency Medical Evacuation, you must pay for it in cash, in advance. No cash, no evacuation. And the cost without SkyMed can be astronomical. Why risk that?

By contrast, if you're a SkyMed member, you call SkyMed directly and they make all the arrangements for all the services they provide. SkyMed Takes You Home -- what else matters?

And there is *no age limit to apply*. Call us at 508-747-8281 and ask for Jeff; he'll answer your questions and can take your application by phone, usually in under 10 minutes.

It's available to Americans, Canadians, and ExPats from both countries. Short-term and annual coverage includes the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available on annual memberships for a \$99 additional yearly fee, but global coverage is standard on multiyear SkyMed Ultimate memberships, which are both SkyMed's best and its least expensive medevac memberships.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweekly.../SkyMedServices.pdf>

Got questions? Call us daytimes (EDT) at 508-747-8281. Again, we can answer your questions and take your application by phone in about 10 minutes. We can set up evening phone appointments too. It's like fire insurance -- get it before you need it.

Our SkyMed website is [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com): please be sure you bookmark **getSkyMed.com** and not any other site. *When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently and effectively; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you. SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

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**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](http://getskymed.com). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

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## **34. 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](http://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.

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## **35. 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](http://getskymed.com).

Our SkyMed website is [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com): please be sure you bookmark **getSkyMed.com** and not any other site. *When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently and effectively; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you. SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

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## **36. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 2/19)**

### **CAR RENTALS:**

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

**[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)**

**Starlite Car Rental (Belair Resort)**

**Sax Car Rental**

**CIGARS HAND-MANUFACTURED ON SXM:**

**[Das Cigars](#)**

**CUBAN CIGARS:**

**[Cigar Mack](#)**

**[SXM Cigars](#)**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS::**

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

**JEWELERS:**

**[Zhaveri Jewelers](#)** in Philipsburg.

**[Caribbean Gems](#)**

**Majesty Jewelers**

**Oro Diamante**

**[Ray's Jewelers](#)**

**Art of Time**

**Artistic Jewelers**

**[Alpha Jewels](#)**

**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**

**Azure Hotel & Art Studio**

**RESTAURANTS:**

**[IZI](#)**

**[SPIGA](#)**

**[VESNA TAVERNA](#)**



**Melange (new; Port de Plaisance)**

**Pelican Bistro**

**Sale and Pepe (new)**

**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*.

**Candie Billant** does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at [blueparadiserealty.com](http://blueparadiserealty.com).

#### **Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies**

**Bright Path** is already posting on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site](#)

Updated 4/8/19b

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## **37. Use Our Weekly News Archives**

Our *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](#). Updating soon.

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## **38. Got SXM Questions? Here's Where The Answers Are**

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

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**Your Business  
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused**

**Website That Works.**

**That's what we do:**

**[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)**

**In business since the web began --**

***a unit of JMB Communications.***

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## **39. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic**

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://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. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email [susank@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly. Winter 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 2020. Contact us today for more information.

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### **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.](#)**

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

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

#### **Want to rent or buy a week?**

**\*2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

**Privacy Policy** [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

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