From JMB / SXM Weekly News 5/6-5/13/19: Richard Branson & LIAT; SW Air & SXM; La Playa; Diamond's Delays; Planet Hollywood; Lee's, Big Fish, & Pedro's All Reopening; Busby's; Marty's; SkyMed Customers [35 News Stories]

Can't see this newsletter? Go here for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.

Vol. 2, #1198 --- \*\*\*Restaurant & Air Travel Double Issue\*\*\*
May 6 & May 13, 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 Webite Login

# **Member News**

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

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2019. See Legal for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored <u>send-only</u> email address. For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u> at the end of this newsletter.

#### **Important Note:**

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving <u>St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News</u> because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

<u>Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 326,000 people around the world...</u>

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



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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml
On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

#### **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

#### **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 <u>SXM Weekly News</u>:

## Weather; Getting Here:

-- Are Jet Fuel Prices Poised to Skyrocket?

- -- Richard Branson May Save LIAT -- and Expand It
- -- Southwest is NOT Coming to SXM in Sept.
- -- Pilot Responds to Our 737 MAX Story
- -- See Current SXM Weather Info

### **SXM Accommodations:**

- -- La Playa Reopening Set
- -- Diamond Explains Delays Reopening Royal Palm, Flamingo
- -- Planet Hollywood Plans Available for Review
- -- Protecting Your Valuables in Hotels / Timeshares
- -- Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of
- -- SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online
- -- Get Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide
- -- Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated)

## **Island Headlines for Tourists:**

- -- Lee's Roadside Grill Plans June Reopening
- -- Big Fish Plans June Reopening
- -- Pedro's, Orient Beach's Original, Is Rebuilding
- -- Beach Bar Poll: Huge Sentiment Wants Busby's Back
- -- After 25 Years, Marty's Closes June 2
- -- Sunset Cafe at GCBC Changing Ownership
- -- Like Kim Sha Beach? Sorry, It Doesn't Exist
- -- Ensure Best SkyMed Deal Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com
- -- Spring Promo Underway for our SXM Island Discount Program

#### 

#### #######

---- \*\*\*\*\*\*Customer Stories \*\*\*\*\*\*

Protect Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed

- -- Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
- -- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
- -- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

## 35 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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent\_sale/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent\_sale/index.shtml</a> 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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</a> 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** 12/14/2019 12/21/2019 week 50 **Royal Islander La Plage** 1 bedroom, sleeps 4, lobby level, ocean/pool view \$895.00 plus \$50.00 timeshare share tax collected at check-in Sandy 704-567-6661 molloytravel@carolina.rr.com

#### 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) 443-1958 <a href="mailto:mzdayzee@aol.com">mzdayzee@aol.com</a>

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

See them all at <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml</a>

#### **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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

Section One: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather Go To This Section

- 1. Are Jet Fuel Prices Poised to Skyrocket?
- 2. Richard Branson May Save LIAT -- and Expand It
- 3. Southwest is NOT Coming to SXM in Sept.
- 4. Cape Air Looking Into SXM-STT Flights
- 5. Air Century Lauds Success of its SXM-SDG Flights
- 6. Pilot Responds to Our 737 MAX Story
- 7. See Current SXM Weather Info

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

- 8. La Playa Reopening Set
- 9. Diamond Explains Delays Reopening Royal Palm & Flamingo
- 10. Planet Hollywood Plans Available for Review
- 11. Protecting Your Valuables in Hotels / Timeshares
- 12. Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of
- 13. SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online
- 14. Get Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide
- 15. 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

16. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

#### Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features Go To This Section

- 17. Lee's Roadside Grill Plans June Reopening
- 18. Big Fish Plans June Reopening
- 19. Pedro's, Orient Beach's Original, Is Rebuilding
- 20. Beach Bar Poll: Huge Sentiment Wants Busby's Back
- 21. After 25 Years, Marty's Closes June 2
- 22. Sunset Cafe at GCBC Changing Ownership
- 23. Like Kim Sha Beach? Sorry, It Doesn't Exist
- 24. Spring Promo Underway for our SXM Island Discount Program
- 25. Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway
- 26. Restaurant of the Week:
- 27. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com

========

28. Going Somewhere?

Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now

=======

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

========

- 30. Are You Military?
- 31. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
- 32. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
- 33. Use Our SXM Weekly News Archives
- 34. Got SXM Questions? Here's Where The Answers Are
- 35. 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
- 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 <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a>.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

Visit <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret">http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</a> , 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 <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</a>. 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. Are Jet Fuel Prices Poised to Skyrocket?

Tensions in the Middle East are growing as the United States has sent a naval armada to the region along with B-52 bombers in a show of strength against Iran.

In recent weeks, the US has claimed that intelligence reports are indicating that Iran may be preparing to attack US forces in the region. The US is also claiming that Iran is taking steps to develop items that could be used in the development of nuclear weapons.

Iran has reacted with hostility toward these US claims, and some observers believe it is a matter of time before Russia, a longtime Iran supporter, may get involved as well.

The only thing certain about the situation in the Middle East is that uncertainty is a certainty. However, if these tensions escalate further the price of crude oil — previously expected to soften during the summer — may well do the opposite. If news reports indicate further rises in MidEast tensions, keep an eye on the price of crude oil, which could have a dramatic effect on the cost of flying.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

PROMOTION NOW UNDERWAY

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: 6 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$79; 1 yr., \$33 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$69; 1 yr., \$29 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

Reinstatement JMB memberships:
6 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$69; 1 yr., \$29
http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

# 2. Richard Branson May Save LIAT -- and Expand It

In recent weeks, we've reported that Liat airlines, based in Antigua, was having very serious financial difficulties. Indeed, that airline, owned by several Caribbean countries, has had profitability and performance issues for years. Although its name is Leeward Islands Air Transport, some wags have said Liat actually means Leave Island Any Time....

The airline was in such bad shape recently that some observers had expected it to collapse within the last few weeks, but now Sir Richard Branson has entered the picture.

Branson is not new to the Caribbean, and in fact he lives in the British Virgin Islands and is well aware of what is happening to Liat. Moreover, his Virgin America airline already flies from London to the Caribbean — and in fact several years ago it had expressed great interest in coming to St. Maarten, an association which failed to materialize. Now, stories are surfacing that say Branson is seriously thinking about a major investment in Liat to ensure its ongoing profitability through expansion.

This story regards what Branson may be planning for Liat and for Caribbean travel in general. Conceivably, it could have impacts on SXM as well.

# 3. Southwest is NOT Coming to SXM in Sept.

Rumors last month spread rather rapidly about Southwest Airlines starting service to SXM from Fort Lauderdale and/or BWI starting in September.

We contacted Southwest directly and spoke to the people who would be involved in putting together such an announcement. They denied that any such preparations are underway.

It's no secret, as we have published here before, that Southwest is very much interested in coming to SXM. It wouldn't surprise us, in fact, if their flights to the island were to start sometime next year. But, according to the airline, they will not be starting in September.

We'll keep an eye on this for you and let you know when anything is formalized.

# 4. Cape Air Looking Into SXM-STT Flights

Cape Air airlines, a Northeast US regional carrier which also operates seasonal flights in the Caribbean, is looking into the possibility of establishing service between St. Maarten and St. Thomas, where it currently flies. We spoke with Cape Air founder and CEO Dan Wolf after suggesting to him that he consider initiating service at Princess Juliana SXM Airport. He told us that he had looked into serving SXM several years ago, but at that time decided against it.

With the growth of the airport and SXM's rapid recovery from hurricane Irma, though, he agreed that it is time to look again at St. Martin as a possible destination for Cape Air. The route he expects to focus on would be a nonstop between St. Maarten and St. Thomas which, we expect, could be a positive event for both islands.

Cape Air is the largest commuter airline in the United States, with a fleet of 92 airplanes and 850 employees.

We'll keep you posted.

# 5. Air Century Lauds Success of its SXM-SDG Flights

Air Century, a regional carrier from the Dominican Republic, introduced nonstops in small regional jets between St. Maarten and the Dominican Republic several months ago. The flights are achieving a load factor of over 70% and the airline is very happy with that result...

# 6. Pilot Responds to Our 737 MAX Story

USA-based commercial airline pilot Jo Will responded to our story on the 737 MAX; here are his comments:

I guess your tone about the 737 Max in the latest issue I guess I took as a little severe. Is there blame on Boeing's part? Of course. Is the airplane really so much of a death trap? Maybe not. I've [seen] some links from several articles that certainly gave me a different perspective.

No reasonable person would project that with the large amount of Max flying in the US there has been, was there ever a similar failure to the ones that downed those two airplanes overseas. There would have almost had to have been, and if not shown in the NASA reports filed, it would show up in maintenance logs. Why no accidents here then? Superior crew training and experience levels. US airline crews were trained that with a pitch or trim anomaly, reach down to the center console and turn that system off. End of problem, write it up when you land.

The American public is spoiled rotten, and naive, in the safety level they have with US carriers, compared to most foreign countries, with a few exceptions like Lufthansa, British Airways, etc. Third world country carriers like Lion Air or Ethiopia Air are not able to hire the experience, or maybe even the same training level as US carriers. After all that same high level of experience is required for the trainers, not just the trainees. In the case of the Captain on Lion Air, I had more logged hours than he did, when I was hired by USAir as a First Officer 31 years ago. It's not like it's their fault-- they just are not able to get to that same level of safety.

Most certainly it was unprecedented that Boeing kept the MCAS system secret from pilot training. They have rightly received huge flak from that. Other mistakes will be corrected such as optional warning annunciators that should have come standard. As in most accidents, lots will be learned and corrected. The loss of human life was huge and tragic, as will be Boeing's losses. AA claims they lost \$350 million in the quarter from the grounding, which seems a stretch for 25 airplanes.

There's just more to the story than it's just a bad plane. That's coming from an Airbus guy who hasn't flown a 737 since 1990.

Jo Will

# 7. See Current SXM Weather / Tracking Serious Weather

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

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

# 1) <u>Crown Weather Services</u> whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.

- 2) Our "Weather" page at <a href="www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a> -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see <a href="https://www.island92.com">www.island92.com</a>. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

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 <a href="https://example.com/here.com

# **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: <a href="https://www.sxmweeklynews.com">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>

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

# 8. La Playa Reopening Set

La Playa hotel on Orient beach has set a reopening date of July 1, 2019. Here is their statement:

We have decided that ... LA PLAYA ORIENT BAY (will open) 1st July 2019 when we will be able to welcome you in the best conditions.

At that date, all of the 56 rooms, together with the beach restaurant will have been totally renovated and we will be able to give a quality service.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish further information.

# 9. Diamond Explains Delays Reopening Royal Palm & Flamingo

Diamond Resorts, owners of Royal Palm Beach Resort and Flamingo Beach Resort, has been roundly criticized in recent months for the lethargic pace of their reconstruction in the wake of hurricane Irma, which hit in September, 2017. Neither resort is open and both are expected to reopen in about 13 months, mid 2020, if everything goes according to current plans.

Here are Diamond's comments, followed by some comments from SXM Weekly News:

We have heard from many owners at Royal Palm Beach Resort and Flamingo Beach Resort who are frustrated about the current construction timeline and we agree that the process is slower than we would all like. But the resort is being rebuilt the right way. All new roofs, electrical, plumbing, windows, doors, mechanical components – the resorts are being completely rebuilt aside from the concrete frames. This isn't just a few repairs and we are in no way dragging out the reconstruction process. We want to see the resorts reopen, so we can once again welcome you home

Here are some details:

Based on the advice of insurance adjusters, industrial hygienists, remediation specialists and other experts, the decision was made to completely rebuild Royal Palm Beach and Flamingo Beach because of the damage caused by Hurricane Irma. Our resorts were not the only properties damaged in the storm. In fact, resorts across the island sustained varying degrees of damage and several other properties have also remained closed – some with no set date of reopening, such as the Westin Dawn Beach.

Blueprints were not available for either resort, forcing us to complete new drawings before beginning any work. That took time and construction could not proceed without them.

Building materials are not readily available on the island, and everything has to be imported. With an incredible number of reconstruction projects happening across the island right now, it is taking longer than normal to get supplies through the ports.

Finding skilled workers has also been a challenge. We currently have nearly 200 workers between the two resorts. When we began the project, obtaining local workers proved to be difficult – the island didn't have any skilled trade workers for some of the pieces needed. That has forced us to hire foreign workers, and obtaining the necessary paperwork for the foreign workers has been a daunting and long process. Each of the workers needs to have a permit before they are allowed on the construction site. If we don't follow the process, it could jeopardize the entire project.

**SXM Weekly News comments**: Sorry, Diamond, we don't buy any of it. You have been widely accused by your timeshare owners of intentionally dragging your feet so owners will walk away, leaving you with lots of fresh inventory to re-sell at high new-building prices. The notion that you couldn't do it faster strikes us as bizarre, to say the least, since Sonesta Maho, which is far bigger than both Diamond properties combined, last Fall was nothing but a shell but -- miracle of miracles -- Sonesta went at it full bore and reopened many weeks ago. You? A bit of work here and there, from what we can see, but still no opening until mid-2020. Had you been interested in reopening quickly in fairness to your loyal timeshare owners, you'd already be open. You aren't. We invite comments from your timeshare owners on SXM -- in your favor or not. Mail them to <a href="mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com">jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com</a> with the subject DIAMOND and we'll pick some at random for publication in future issues. Lots of other resorts had severe damage -- Divi, Simpson Bay, Oyster Bay Beach, Royal Islander, Belair -- and somehow they all got it done. Perhaps you should ask them how they did it and you didn't.

# 10. Planet Hollywood Plans Available for Review

Plans for the big 452 room Planet Hollywood Resort that is scheduled to be constructed on the site of the former Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort starting this summer are now available for public review through the Department of VROMI; details are <a href="here">here</a>.

Once the public review period ends on May 20, VROMI will review comments and make any changes it deems necessary. The hotel development operations of Sunwing airlines, the Canadian carrier that owns this development, will then make final plan changes and move on to construction. Early estimates were that construction would take about a year and 1/2, which means that the hotel will likely be open for the winter season in 2021.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

# 11. Protecting Your Valuables in Hotels / Timeshares

Hotels, timeshares, and most villas have wall safes. If you bring valuables with you, your first step upon checking in should be to make sure that the safe in your unit is in perfect operating condition.

If it isn't, you need to contact hotel management to ensure that it is repaired that day. Lacking a safe, you might want to check your valuables with the hotel so it can store them in the hotel safe. Of course, you will want a person in an authoritative position at the property to verify & sign your list of the property you have given them for safekeeping. You should be sure that no valuables are left in your hotel room or in your car, including the car trunk.

If you have a computer with you, you should secure it with a four digit Kensington lock, never a keyed lock that can easily be hacked.

More information about your safety and security on SXM is in the Files area on our Jeff Berger's <a href="Everything SXM"><u>Everything SXM</u></a> <a href="Facebook site">Facebook site</a>.

# 12. 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 <a href="mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com">jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:Everything SXM Facebook Site">Everything SXM Facebook Site</a>.

# 13. 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.

See the video here.

# **14. Get** <u>Lowest Rates</u> for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals <u>Worldwide</u>

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 <a href="https://www.skymedtravel.com/register">https://www.skymedtravel.com/register</a>, 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.

# 15. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick

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 <u>timeshare rental site</u> on <u>everythingSXM.com</u> and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on everythingsxm.com. Check them out.

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

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

# 16. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updated

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.

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

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

PROMOTION NOW UNDERWAY

.\_\_\_\_\_

# Get 300+ SXM Discounts <u>& Many Other Island Benefits,</u> <u>& (P. S.) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:</u>

# Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership Today:

New JMB memberships: 6 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$79; 1 yr., \$33 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$69; 1 yr., \$29 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

Reinstatement JMB memberships:
6 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$69; 1 yr., \$29
http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

## 17. Lee's Roadside Grill Plans June Reopening

Lee Halley, owner of Lee's Roadside Grill, will be reopening his restaurant in a new location next month, according to a message posted on Lee's Facebook site. The location is diagonally across the street from the Atrium Resort on Billy Folly Road. The restaurant has been very close to completion for the last several weeks, during which a number of finishing touches were applied.

Here is the restaurant's message:

We would like thank all our customers, friends & family for all the support & encouragement.

That support & encouragement is what made Lee more determined to once again build Lee's Roadside Grill at its new location right across from the Atrium Hotel in Pelican.

We are down to the finishing touches so hopefully June. We will keep you posted.

We are looking for pictures/memories from before 1995. All of our pictures got damaged by Hurricane Luis and we are trying to make a memory wall, can you help us? <u>Please post</u> any pictures you have of LEE'S from before 1995.

# 18. Big Fish Plans June Reopening

Leslie Martina, owner of Big Fish restaurant on Emerald Merit Road in Oyster Pond, is saying that he is continuing to expect a June reopening of that restaurant, which has been completely redone inside, floor to ceiling.

There will be some changes to the menu, which we expect to be able to show you here or more likely on our Everything SXM Facebook Site once the menu is available.

We'll keep you posted.

# 19. Pedro's, Orient Beach's Original, Is Rebuilding

Back in the late 1970s when the very first signs of development appeared on Orient beach, in the form of signs announcing the forthcoming construction of the Club Orient naturist resort, there was one and only one refreshment stand on the beach — it was a small drink cart called Pedro's.

Pedro's grew over the years into a beach bar/restaurant right next to the northern perimeter of Club Orient. Pedro's, like every other business on Orient beach, was destroyed on that early September day in 2017 when hurricane Irma roared through the island.

Much rebuilding all along Orient beach has been completed since then, and now several new shops, bars, and restaurants are getting prepared to move into the new building being erected by the Collectivite just north of where Pedro's had stood. These structures replace those built a few years ago that Irma blew away in 2017. The big news now is that Pedro's is going to be one of the occupants of those new buildings.

Once we have the actual dates when this new facility will be open, we'll pass them along.

# 20. Beach Bar Poll: Huge Sentiment Wants Busby's Back

Our Everything SXM Facebook Site periodically conduct polls — sometimes one or two a week.

In response to a question someone broached about a week ago, we asked our readers to tell us the names of their favorite SXM beach bars — current or past. The purpose of the survey was to find out what type of beach bar our readers like best.

The overwhelming winner was Mr. Busby's Beach Bar (and Daniel's by the Sea, the fine dining Italian restaurant which was the nighttime incarnation of Busby's). Unfortunately, both were blown away away by hurricane Irma.

Nonetheless, we passed along the results of the survey both to the family that owned it and to Daniel Jurczenko, who ran both restaurants and other facilities in the area under the same ownership.

We know Daniel continues to look for restaurant opportunities on the Dutch side. We just wanted him to know that there appears to be strong pent-up demand for property similar to Busby's/Daniel's that offers the same kind of dining in one complete day and night facility. Since it was mostly cruise ship passengers who used the beach, a new Busby's/Daniel's needn't be on a beach to satisfy thousands of stayover tourists who love the place.

Might Daniel's and Busby's come back somewhere on the Dutch side? We don't know, but like thousands of others we can hope.

# 21. After 25 Years, Marty's Is Closing

...So stop in while you can and enjoy our place for 1 more month. After 23 years of Marty's Gyro and 2.5 years of Marty's Go Dutch we are closing at the current location as my lease will not be renewed by my landlord... I would like to thank all the folks that have been supporting Marty's and especially Sebastiaan for reviving and managing Marty's Go Dutch. Bas and me are going our separate ways after June 2nd. and Marty's wishes him the best of success. Marty's Gyro might return in the future on SXM, but for now the 25 year old kiddo is going to sleep for awhile. Thank you all again, and attached a word from Sebastiaan. -- *Marty* 

Unfortunately Marty's Go Dutch will be closing as of June 2nd, 2019 since the lease ended and renewal was not possible.

During the last month Marty Dijkhuis will be your daily host. [Note: Marty has now left the island. -Ed.] Of course live soccer and live music will continue until the end, CL Final on June 1st!

It was my pleasure working with everyone for the last 2 1/2 years at Marty's Go Dutch.

Too all our guests, many thanks for your patronage and the countless great memories made while having one or more drinks! Many of you have become like family to me and made it feel like going home instead of going to work.

Specials thanks to the all the great team members over the last +2 years: Jaime Bruney, Alexi Frisnel, Peter

Heemstra, Henri, Tom Wheatcroft, Gerald Bird, Pieter Holstein, Maëva Fallay, Wilsorne, Liseth, Krista van 't Goor, Diana De Jesus, Elfride Labady, Yissell Florentino, Dorine, Steve Ramessar, Nikola, Kim Ashby.

Sebastiaan Hoekstra

# 22. Sunset Cafe at GCBC Changing Ownership

The ever-popular Sunset Café at Grand Case Beach Club, (located on Petite Plage, one of Saint Martin's most beautiful beaches), is under new management, as of June 1, 2019.

Long a favorite of hotel guests and well informed visitors and locals, the Café has one of the most coveted locations in the Caribbean. Unobstructed views of the beach, Creole Rock, and Anguilla, make it a very special destination for imaginative breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

Always welcoming and casual, the menus range from light fare and snacks to full-on meals. Complete bar and beach

service complements the relaxed and friendly ambiance that the resort and restaurant are known for.

Marina Bernard and her brother, Johann LeJeune are the new operators, and have restaurants in their DNA. We look forward to working with them in new and imaginative ways, while continuing all that has made the Sunset Café as popular as it has always been. Both were brought up in Grand Case, where their parents owned La California in Grand Case Village, and Marina moved on to open KokoMarina in Orient Bay with her husband (Koko), as well as Palm Beach...very successfully until disaster struck and Irma demolished it in 2017. Johann has the popular Rancho Del Sol above Orient Beach, and both brother and sister are known by so many of our guests and staff, it is almost like coming home.

There will be some changes and renovations, though the immediate plans are to operate as we have been to September, since the resort re-opened in late 2018. A temporary kitchen has been putting out great, but simple offerings, and this will continue as we refurbish and upgrade the existing kitchen facilities, and we are hoping to have that completed around the end of November.

The high season will start with a fresh and new concept, with what we fully expect will be the best breakfast on the island and high standard with good value for every offering.

The outgoing operators, Alex and Chantal will be missed, and we all wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors. We appreciate the 11 years that they have partnered with us, and look forward to the next decade...that starts on June 1 with Marina and Johann.

Welcome to Koko, Marina & Johann...as we look forward to a bright future.

-- Grand Class Beach Club

# 23. Like Kim Sha Beach? Sorry, It Doesn't Exist

Although many of you have visited it, we're sorry to inform you that Kimsha beach in the Simpson Bay area doesn't exist.

Whether it's referred to as Kimsha one word or Kim Sha beach, you will not find it on any competently created map of the island. If you own one from Kasprowski publishers, for example, bought through <a href="www.midok.com">www.midok.com</a>, you will find that entire expanse of beach simply referred to as Simpson Bay beach — as it should be.

Why is it, then, that so many people refer to the stretch of beach between Royal Palm and Atrium as Kim Sha?

The answer is, many years ago there was a Chinese restaurant in the area called Kim Sha, and the stretch of beach near it came to be referred to as Kim Sha, even though that was never the name of the beach. (It reminds us a bit of Alice's Restaurant, which never existed either, says Arlo Guthrie.) Barbara Cannegeiter pointed this out recently in a post referring to Kimsha beach; Barbara is a longtime ex-pat who lives on the island and has a very good grasp of its history and of course its topography, so we thank Barbara for giving us this bit of information.

# 24. Spring Promo Underway for our SXM Island Discount Program

JMB Website Supporters, our SXM Island Discount program, delivers about 300 discounts and other SXM benefits. We haven't had a promotion for our **JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program** since January, but our Spring Promo delivers <u>Black Friday Prices</u> -- and it's underway now:

GOOD: One year new memberships, \$33 (our reg. \$59) BETTER: Three-year new memberships, \$79 (our reg. \$99)

BEST: Six-year new memberships \$139 (not normally offered, but by far our best buy)

Great renewal & reinstatement prices are offered too. To take advantage of these offers, click the page curl at everythingsxm.com to join or renew/reinstate your JMB membership now.

# 25. Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway

A major promo has begun on SkyMed memberships. Not only are all multiyear SkyMed memberships heavily discounted for JMB members, but when you buy a new multiyear SkyMed membership through us or upgrade your annual SkyMed membership bought from us to a multiyear membership, we will extend your JMB membership on us for the number of years you buy SkyMed.

Example: Upgrade to or buy a new five-year SkyMed membership through us, and we give you a free five-year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership. All you need to do is forward us a copy of the acknowledgement you receive from SkyMed after you buy new or upgrade through us. For info, see getskymed.com, but to qualify for these bonuses, you must buy by phoning us at (508) 747-8281 or email Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed. Give us your phone number and time zone and we'll return your call as quickly as we can. Available exclusively to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats.

## 26. Restaurant of the Week:

This series resumes shortly. Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Vesna Taverna,** <u>www.vesnataverna.com</u> (featured 4/29/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Sunday.

**Emilio's** at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, <a href="www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant">www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant</a> 4/15/19. Just qo....

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

**IZI Ristorante Italiano,** 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**, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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** <u>www.mariobistrot.com/en/</u> 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.

**Topper's** <a href="http://www.sxmtoppers.com/">http://www.sxmtoppers.com/</a> (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**, <a href="http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/">http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/</a> (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.

**Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran**, <a href="www.sailstmaarten.com">www.sailstmaarten.com</a> (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 (featured 7/31/17) Reopened.

**Papagayo**, <a href="http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php">http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php</a> (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 (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

Taloula Mango <a href="http://www.taloulamango.com/">http://www.taloulamango.com/</a> (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.

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

Our SkyMed website is <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a>: 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; that way we get credit. It takes about 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 do get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you.

SkyMed inquiries only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. Thank you. Customer stories are below.

# 28. Traveling Aug. 15 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 <a href="mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com">jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com</a> 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 <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a>: please be sure you bookmark <a href="getSkyMed.com">getSkyMed.com</a> 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.

Customer stories are below.

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

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

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

On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

<u>Mary Beth and her partner Don</u> 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.

<u>A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother</u> 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.

<u>A woman from Virginia</u> 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

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.

<u>All this is why we always recommend SkyMed</u>. 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 <u>in about 10 minutes</u>. 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 <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a>. 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 more than three months into the future, 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 X-Pats 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 <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a>: please be sure you bookmark <a href="getSkyMed.com">getSkyMed.com</a> 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.

# 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 <a href="mailto:getskymed.com">getskymed.com</a>. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

# See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

# 30. 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 everythingsxm.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.

# 31. 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.

Our SkyMed website is <a href="www.getskymed.com">www.getskymed.com</a>: please be sure you bookmark <a href="getSkyMed.com">getSkyMed.com</a> 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.

# 32. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

#### **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.

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

Bright Path is already posting on our **Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site** 

Updated 4/29/19

# 33. 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.

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

Check out our Everything SXM Facebook Site and our main SXM website, everythingsxm.com.

# **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.

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

SXM Weekly News, our <u>everythingSXM.com</u> website and its Hurricane Center, and our <u>Everything SXM Facebook</u>
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 <a href="mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com">susank@jmbcommunications.com</a> 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.

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

<u>Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.</u>

#### 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: <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</a>.

Want to rent or buy a week?

\*2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

## **SECTION 5:** For Members Only

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at <a href="https://www.everythingsxm.com">www.everythingsxm.com</a>. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See <a href="www.everythingsxm.com/secret">www.everythingsxm.com/secret</a> .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: <a href="www.sxmweeklynews.com">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>. 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 <a href="www.sxmweeklynews.com">www.sxmweeklynews.com</a>; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. <a href="JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access">access</a>.

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

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

#### **LEGAL:**

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2019. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. \*Everything St. Maarten\*, \*Everything SXM\*, and \*Everything St. Martin\* are service marks of JMB Communications. \*JMB Communications\* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com">http://www.everythingsxm.com</a>. You cannot join by emailing us.

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, <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret">http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</a>. If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact <a href="mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com">support@jmbcommunications.com</a>

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to <code>jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com</code> with the subject \*Free Newsletter Recipient,\* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\_policy/index.shtml">http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\_policy/index.shtml</a> (Updated 5/25/18)

5/13/19 #V2-1198 0600 am AST 10.9

## | Terms of use |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2019. World rights reserved.

