

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/8/19: SXM Airport; Royal Palm Update; Ocean Club Debacle; New 32-rm Hotel; Noise Silenced; French Side Road Work; July, August Island Party Invites; Spiga [34 News Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1206 --- July 8, 2019
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

Congrats to the World Cup Champion USA Women's Soccer Team!



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Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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Important Note:

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

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

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

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 8/24/2019 8/31/2019 Week 34 **Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Corner Penthouse Unit in the Flamboyant with views of both Simpson Bay and the Ocean.** 2 Bedroom unit right on the Beach, sleeps

6, two baths, wall safes in closets, kitchen, dining area, 2 Murphy beds, living room, free Wi-Fi, flat screen TVs, and two large balconies overlooking the beautiful Caribbean. Resort has restaurants, casino, gym, tennis courts, mini market, bakery, Olympic pool and swim up bar, Marina, water sports and a beautiful beach. Unit is just a few steps away from the beach, Marina Pool, and Beach Bar. \$1,600 Frank 516-425-6714 f1leichtle@optonline.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/5/2019 1/4/2020 floating week **Oyster Bay Beach Resort** This annual week Studio for 2 is Interval International premier resort on the beach. With kingsize bed, 1 bathroom, kitchen facility and balcony .It is an ideal location for a couple's getaway on the beach, although there is a possibility to upgrade it to 1, 2 or 3 bedroom unit. Available for use from 2019 year. Friendly resort with restaurant, swimming pool, live entertainment, gym, laundry, shop, beauty spa and more. \$14 800. tel: 0044 1202 707586 \$14,800 Helena 0044 1202 707586 helena.thurston@talktalk.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

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

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Are Electric Airplanes in SXM's future?

As we reported here in *SXM Weekly News* a few weeks ago, one of America's largest commuter airlines, Cape Air, is looking to expand its service in the Caribbean by possibly adding flights between SXM and St. Thomas. It's interesting to note that once preclearance has been established at SXM Airport, it will greatly simplify departures of Americans to any part of the US including St. Thomas.

We spoke with Cape Air CEO Dan Wolf about new service recently and he said his company will be examining the possibility of establishing St. Maarten – St. Thomas flights.

What about electric aircraft?

Cape Air is the first company to order electric airplanes from a manufacturer in Israel. Here is that story. It's not inconceivable that, at some point, electric airplanes could be used on various short interisland flights. Here's much more on the new [electric aircraft](#).

The distance between St. Thomas and SXM is a bit over 120 miles. So...who knows?

As always, we'll keep you posted.

2. US Airports' Free Wifi May Be Dangerous

NBC aviation reporter Tom Costello said in a broadcast report this past weekend that the use of public Wi-Fi systems in some US airports may be a dangerous practice. The reason: private, criminal networks masquerading as official Wi-Fi suppliers are already stealing personal information including credit card data from people who stumble into their fake, criminal websites.

Here is [more on this story](#).

3. Lithium Ion Battery Warnings

For quite some time, passengers aboard American aircraft have been prohibited from putting lithium-ion batteries in checked luggage.

Last Thursday night, a Virgin Airways jet bound from JFK to London Heathrow had to make an emergency landing in Boston when a seat on the aircraft was set afire by a malfunctioning lithium-ion battery being charged by a passenger.

Here are several warnings to stay safe when you're using lithium ion batteries, the most common batteries now supplied in cell phones, tablets, and portable computers!

1. Never put any lithium ion batteries in checked baggage.

2. Never charge any lithium ion batteries in the cabin of any aircraft.

3. If you have luggage with an integral battery charger, seriously consider either bringing it back where you bought it or getting rid of it. Some airlines have banned such luggage because lithium ion batteries are integrated into its design.

4. If you have a spare lithium ion battery, package it in a see-through plastic bag and keep it with your carry-ons.

Finally, if you must charge batteries overnight in your home or office, always charge them on a nonflammable surface in case they overheat.

Note this: We are not battery experts. Consult product literature provided with all lithium ion devices to help assure safe operation.

4. 75 or Over? Keep Your Shoes On, SXM Inspectors Say

If you're departing from SXM Airport and are age 75 or over, some inspectors there will allow you to keep your shoes on, passengers are telling us.

Excusing people from such inspections, though pleasant for passengers, is probably a bad idea from a security perspective, at least until U. S. preclearance is a fact in SXM. Indeed, SXM security personnel apply this dictum unevenly. If they don't believe you're actually 75 or over, they'll tell you to take your shoes off. They don't seem to care whether you have a passport for identification.

Don't count on leaving your shoes on in SXM if you're 75 or over; again it's applied unevenly.

5. NHC Watches, Warnings, Etc. Arrive in Our SXM FB Group

Regardless of whether there are systems being watched, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) posts Tropical Outlooks and other routine posts multiple times per day. On Sunday, for example, we posted their then-current Outlook saying that no tropical development was expected in the next five days. As long as the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean remain quiet, we will have few NHC posts on our site. But when the tropical Atlantic becomes active, we will be posting all significant bulletins both in the Weather Center of our main everythingSXM.com website and, later, on our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Our Weather Center on everythingSXM.com this season will include all current hurricane informational bulletins, satellite images, radar, etc. Be aware that bulletins from Crown Weather Services, our long-time partner private weather forecasting organization, will be posting its exclusive content on our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as necessary when any storms threaten SXM.

If you live or work anywhere where tropical systems could conceivably impact you or your business, we urge you to subscribe to Crown Weather Services predictions. We know a number of TV meteorologists and they invariably refer to Crown Weather's Rob Lightbown as the guy to go to for accurate hurricane weather forecasting. Find out more at [crownweather.com](#).

6. See Current SXM Weather / Tracking Serious Weather

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](#), and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

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

1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.

- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 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 [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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SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc.

7. Plan for 32-Room Simpson Bay Hotel Rudely Received

This story has two parts. The first is from Tadzio Bervoets, head of the SXM Nature Foundation, an environmental watchdog group, and the second is the fierce social media reaction to his comments.

From The Nature Foundation:

Nature Foundation Concerned Over Rumoured Plans to Build 32 Room Hotel on Simpson Bay Beach; Has Asked the VROMI Ministry for Clarification

The Sint Maarten Nature Foundation was informed during beach assessments carried out as part of the monitoring of local sea turtle populations during nesting season that the development of a thirty-two room hotel is being planned for the area of Simpson Bay Beach between Karakter Beach Bar and White Sands Beach Club.

The Foundation is very concerned at the rumoured development considering that the area is one of the last undisturbed and undeveloped nesting beaches for all three of the endangered sea turtles that come ashore to lay eggs on Sint Maarten.

Although we have not yet received confirmation that this project has been approved, we did find stakes used for measuring property all over the beach. This, together with information that has been shared within the community, has caused us to have major concerns about this new proposed development for that section of Simpson Bay Beach.

If this development were to go ahead it would mean the end of sea turtles coming ashore to nest on Simpson Bay, the most important nesting sea turtle beach on the Dutch Side, commented Nature Foundation Manager Tadzio Bervoets. The Foundation has been calling for the sustainable use of the country's beaches and for legislation to be established that would protect local beaches, the island's most important natural resource.

Sea turtle population numbers have plummeted to dangerously low numbers throughout the past century due to human impact, bringing many species close to extinction and causing them to be listed as critically endangered. We also would like to remind developers and those responsible for issuing permits that based on Articles 16 and 17 of the Nature Conservation Ordinance St. Maarten it is illegal to kill, wound, capture or pick up sea turtles. It is also illegal to directly or indirectly disturb their environment resulting in a physical threat or damage, or to commit other acts which result in disturbance of the animal. It is forbidden to disturb, damage or destroy sea turtle nests, lairs or breeding places, which that section of Simpson Bay Beach is classified as, explained Bervoets.

The Nature Foundation is the designated focal point for Sea Turtle Conservation according to the Inter American Sea Turtle Convention, the SPAW Protocol on Endangered Species and Country Representative for the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network and has received specialized training in Sea Turtle conservation, including in relocating turtle nests that are in danger due to human activities or natural events such as storm surge. The Foundation has requested clarification on the matter from the VROMI Ministry. {End Nature Foundation Press Release}.

Here is a [sampling of reaction](#) posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#):

Crazy! First of all the beach needs protecting since almost all beaches are over developed already and second where oh were are all these people going to drive and park? Short sighted and greedy development and ruining the island. -Ankie

Who owns the land? Very interesting .. No more pollution on our beaches destroying precious wildlife. You can determine a society's worth by how they regard the weakest in their midst. - Sylvia

How is this even possible? The beach/land is so narrow there and right now there is no road there. -Aiga

What a totally ridiculous idea! -Wendy

Absurd to build a hotel there! Turtles breeding there -Gerda

By the fence by the airway? I think there are strict rules for building so close to the airport. This is so wrong if it happens. SXM in a big mess. - Tracey

8. Diamond Resorts' Royal Palm Update

This was published on the private website used by Diamond Resorts timeshare owners. "Mervin" is the resort General Manager, Mervin LeBlanc. This is published by permission of its author:

Although Diamond wanted to get the lovely new room designs out for people to see, it's very important to remember that this is not a redecorating project. It is a rebuild of the buildings severely damaged by Hurricane Irma. With the need to rebuild and repair the damage came the opportunity to make updates, replacing 30+ year old equipment and construction with newer and improved materials and designs. And, very importantly, to rebuild stronger. Hurricane Irma (after Bertha, Luis, Debby and a couple of others in the past 30 years) the resort structures showed some weaknesses that could be made stronger. Diamond Resorts, with encouragement from GM Mervin LeBlanc and contractors, decided to make the improvements now to ensure a more secure future for the resort, its owners and guests.

Just walking by, we can see people working throughout the buildings. They have over 120 dedicated, skilled construction workers housed on the Flamingo property now (more on the way) and in addition have local workers working onsite. Combined, there are about 380 units at Flamingo and Royal Palm of varying sizes and amenities spread out among all floors and all the buildings. Plus, there are the common areas like lobbies, housekeeping spaces, mechanical rooms, elevators, stairs, entries, hallways, public spaces, etc. A little quick arithmetic and we won't often see a dozen people in each room working away even if we could see both sides of the building at once, plus all the common areas and the mechanical spaces. This is a huge job on large properties.

Construction is currently focused on getting all the doors and windows replaced to secure the interior for the important work to come. That part of the project is very close to completion--nearly all the sliders are in at both resorts--still a few to go, but they are getting done. All the "guts" will be new after this rebuild. The buildings were taken down to the bare concrete. So, we will have new plumbing, HVAC, wiring, etc. and much more. Think of what that means--more efficient, and new features that didn't exist when the buildings were constructed. Plus, all new furnishings, finishes and fixtures. And, oh, yes, major roofing repairs and structure rebuild. The contractors worked with structural design and hurricane experts to make the newly rebuilt Diamond resort buildings on SXM stronger and better, more efficient, more comfortable and more attractive. The best is yet to be....

SXM Weekly News will also soon publish more complete updates which will soon be released exclusively to timeshare owners of SXM Diamond Resorts properties.

More stories follow.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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Get it All -----Join JMB Today!

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

New JMB memberships: 5 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$99; 1 yr., \$59
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$79; 1 yr., \$39
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Reinstatement JMB memberships:
6 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$79; 1 yr., \$39
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

9. Timeshare Owners Still Dominate SXM Stayover Tourism

Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) periodically conducts polls among its base of more than 23,000 tourists. We recently asked that group what kind of resorts they like, knowing that timeshare resorts dominate the island. What we didn't know — and what the recent poll showed — is that roughly 10 times as many people choose timesharing accommodations here as choose all-Inclusive accommodations: that was a key conclusion of our unscientific survey.

SXM does not have a high number of hotel room accommodations and can certainly use more. It is moving in that direction, with the new nearly 500 room Planet Hollywood Resort coming to Great Bay beach and the new large

Secrets resort coming to Anse Marcel on the French side. Secrets will open next winter — its target date is currently March, 2020. Planet Hollywood is currently expected to open toward the end of 2020 or 2021. We will be publishing many pictures of both resorts as they are constructed — as well as the new twin 21-story condominium towers being built in Cupecoy — starting later this year.

Bottom line, timeshare owners still dominate SXM stayover tourism and that appears likely to continue, though new condo construction is increasing. Please see story 11.

10. Ocean Club Debacle Continues

When the Ocean Club was built on Cupecoy beach about 20 years ago, no one really gave a second thought to the fact that it was being constructed largely of wood. The thought that a colossal 185 mile-per-hour super hurricane with recorded gusts of up to 240 mph could or would ever happen on the island never occurred to anyone. Irma destroyed both Summit Resort, made of wood roughly 50 years ago, and Ocean Club, and it obliterated three entire buildings at Simpson Bay Resort. The destruction of Summit Resort required its ownership to declare a *force majeure* for that totally destroyed property, a contractual term we explained here in *SXM Weekly News* at that time.

Ocean Club offered some of its timeshare owners accommodations on other islands, but St. Maarten tourists and St. Maarten timeshare owners are dedicated to this island and have zero interest going elsewhere.

Now, nearly two years post-Irma, they have been waiting for Ocean Club to announce when it will rebuild but, they say, Ocean Club has been totally mum. When we asked timeshare owners in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) what Ocean Club was communicating to them recently, the response was "crickets" — they were hearing nothing but crickets, nothing at all from developer Eric Loor.

We have attempted to contact Mr. Loor recently but have not yet been successful. We do believe he's living on SXM and we are pursuing him so we can get a readout of what exactly the future is for Ocean Club, which still stands in ruins now nearly two years after hurricane Irma struck. We know part of the problem is that multiple people own different parts of the property. But after nearly two years, there needs to be some movement. Nothing is being communicated and timeshare owners are not happy.

We will continue to follow this story.

11. 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. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#).

Next week we expect to add a link here to Bright Path, a company that can help provide very deep and expeditious help in completing residency requirements for people buying a second home, income property, or a new business in SXM. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side.

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 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 Group](#).

13. 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.

14. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated 6/19)

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 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

15. 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

16. Dutch Side Shuts Down Loud Music at "Kim Sha Beach"

Although we don't know why the Dutch side government chose to wait months to act on the noise issue along Welfare Road in Simpson Bay, word came this week that they are actually doing something.

A couple of years ago, a large slab of concrete was constructed not far from Royal Palm Beach Resort on the so-called Kimsha beach portion of Simpson Bay beach, ostensibly for parking. It was later taken over by a couple of eating places and bars that blared music well into the wee hours at levels far higher than were tolerable to neighbors. Since Royal Palm Beach Resort was still under reconstruction (and will remain so until about a year from now) complaints were heard but not acted upon.

Now, the government says it is moving forward with a new program, and part of that new program involves removal of the temporary businesses that are creating the much-hated cacophony in the area. Here is [that story](#).

17. French Side Road Works to Aggravate Traffic Woes

In a move regarded by Grand Case businesses as falling somewhere between a major inconvenience and a full-on disaster, the French side government has decided to tear up much of the roadways in Grand Case to install both a new sewage system and new high tension electric lines.

Although the government of the collectivite says the work will be done by November, it has a long and well-documented history of finishing major projects late, if at all, so its proposed actions, though necessary, come at a time when they could imperil the beginning of the next high season. Grand Case business owners are widely expected to write to the government protesting the inadequacy of the plans.

Here is a Google translation of the press release sent out by the collectivite on the construction plans, which include projects beyond Grand Case:

PRESS RELEASE

The Community takes stock of the planned works on the road network:

Since the hurricane Irma, several sites are open on the road network of Saint-Martin in a political will of the President and his elected to rehabilitate and bury all the networks. The Community has effectively launched the burial of electricity networks, optical fiber and rehabilitation of water and sanitation networks. This vast project, which is part of several budget years, aims to modernize all the networks and to permanently eliminate the air networks. This work will continue until the end of the term of office.

During the months of July and August 2019, several projects were planned. Landfill work on Rue de Hollande will continue until the end of 2019. Two-way recirculation in front of the Howell Center shopping center will take effect on

Wednesday, July 10, 2019. The end of the work is scheduled for the beginning of September. Traffic will now be a two-way street, except for some occasional work, which will be done at night and on Sundays.

Landfill works by EDF on the Boulevard de Grand Case, from Tuesday, July 9, 2019:

After carrying out the post-Irma emergency repairs on the electricity grids of the Boulevard de Grand Case, EDF will begin on Tuesday, July 09, landfill for the replacement of a defective high-voltage line. 850 linear meters of line will be buried during this operation whose duration of work is estimated at 1 month and a half.

The FSASM is planning the rehabilitation of the water and wastewater systems on Grand Case Boulevard as of September 2019. The Water and Sanitation Institute of Saint-Martin (EEASM) is actively working on the rehabilitation of water and sanitation distribution networks with a constant concern for quality and sustainability adapted to the needs of the territory and to the requirements environmental. In this sense, the EEASM has made the choice of vacuum sanitation to equip the urban area of Grand Case, hitherto devoid of collective network.

Certified at European level, the vacuum process has the merit of combining economic performance by controlling investment and operating costs, and respect for the environment (no pollution of groundwater, self-cleaning networks, immediate detection of malfunctions).

Following the consultation launched in February, tenders are currently being analyzed for an effective start of work in September 2019. The detailed planning of these will then be available and will be the subject of a recurrent communication.

The EEASM will pay particular attention to ensuring that these are carried out in the strictest respect of both standards, quality and safety, and the population of the areas concerned.

Work on the ravine Paradis in Orleans District from October

The community is also planning work on the Paradis ravine in the Quartier d'Orléans for a total amount of 1.3 million euros. These hydraulic works are part of the development of the Belle Plaine watershed, which has been the subject of numerous design studies since 2015.

The overall objective of the operation is to protect property and people from flooding and to ensure the sustainable development of new business parks in the Quartier d'Orléans area. This development work is the first step in a series of actions aimed at reducing floods in the event of heavy rains. These measurements were defined at the end of technical studies and hydraulic modeling conducted throughout the Belle Plaine watershed.

The intervention will take place in 3 sectors

Work will begin in October 2019 for a period of 8 months. They will relate to 3 sectors of intervention identified as problematic for the flow of waters:

Ravine Paradis bridge on RN7 road:

The current dimensions of the hydraulic section of the bridge are not sufficient to allow large amounts of water to pass in rainy weather, causing flooding upstream and on the road. A new reinforced concrete frame bridge will be built in place of the existing bridge. It will be equipped with sidewalks and guardrails for pedestrian safety. In addition, the banks will be protected from erosion by rip rap.

Cross the Range turn:

The banks of the ravine are impacted by erosion caused by heavy rains and the section of the ravine is not sufficient. A U-shaped reinforced concrete structure will be built along the road, near the turn of Cross the Range. It will be equipped with sidewalks and railings

(End of collectivite communication)

18. USA Today Highlights Great SXM Progress

Melanie Reffes, the *USA Today* reporter who covers the Caribbean, last week published an extensive article about SXM highlighting the great progress of its recovery from hurricane Irma. You will be interested in [this story](#).

19. Netherlands Watching Dutch Side Govt. Like a Hawk

Although it's largely invisible to tourists, nonetheless the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands keeps a close eye on the government of SXM, attempting to ensure that everything operates smoothly and the island continues to be successful.

The Dutch side of SXM has about a dozen political parties and has a history of political and governmental turmoil. It seems to get the most done when one party is in control, rather than through coalition governments which in recent years have fallen apart frequently and noisily.

Very slow responsiveness to Airport insurance claims and woefully slow movement by the Dutch side government nearly spelled disaster last winter for SXM Airport: in fact, the kingdom of the Netherlands said recently that it was ready to step in and take whatever action was necessary to ensure that the airport kept operating when it allegedly came very close to bankruptcy over the winter.

That's great assurance for tourists but a strong admonition to the Dutch side government to get its act in gear. It has been sitting on a proposal for \$100 million in aid to the Airport to finish all its renovations and reconstruction activity. The Kingdom will certainly not wait forever.

Here's [more on this story](#).

More stories follow.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

=====

Get it All -----Join JMB Today!

=====

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

New JMB memberships: 5 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$99; 1 yr., \$59
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$79; 1 yr., \$39
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Reinstatement JMB memberships:
6 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$79; 1 yr., \$39
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

20. Our SXM Euro Ovals are Back

They're back - our famous SXM Euro-Ovals! You'll find pictures of the ovals in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Order three for \$15 or five for \$20. Pay through PAYPAL payable to jeff@jmbcommunications.com. Include your US or CANADIAN address (none shipped elsewhere). Style may vary SLIGHTLY from photo. Allow 6 weeks for delivery. Use them on your car window or on smooth, hard-sided luggage (makes ID easy in baggage claim). You can also send a check to us (US dollar checks drawn on US banks ONLY) to OVALS, c/o JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Checks take extra time for processing.

21. You're Invited to JMB's Summer Island Parties (Updated 7/8)

We currently have in planning two parties this summer, one late in July and the other on August 23 at Toppers Rhum Distillery.

The first party on July 23 will be at Isola and will be limited to 30 people. We will email details about it to JMB Website Supporters members on Tuesday July 9. We expect it to sell out quickly. Adults only, JMB Website Supporters members and spouse/significant others only. No outside guests allowed.

The second party on August 23 will feature two special guests — renowned author and Netflix TV series producer and star Jacky Rom, who will be letting attendees in on her current activities and her future plans — including writing a new novel this year from her writing base in SXM.

The second guest will be Topper Daboul himself, for whom Toppers Distillery is named. He'll be talking about two new shorefront condominium projects that are now underway along or near Simpson Bay beach: see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) posting for more information on these projects if you are thinking at all of relocating to SXM.

Both parties require Preregistration; as soon as they are ready for Registration, we will announce them via an email sent specifically to JMB Website Supporters members and also to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Click the link to [join that group](#) and you *may* not lose out on making it to one or both of these parties. (JMB Website Supporters members **always** get first dibs on all JMB parties.)

22. Current Status of Euro vs. Dollar

The euro continues to be slightly stronger than the US dollar; it now takes \$1.12 to buy one euro. On the French side, where the euro is used, some businesses will still accept dollars and euros at par when you pay with cash. It's best to check this out before beginning any transaction.

23. Spiga Taking Long Summer Vacation Starting July 24

Spiga — easily the best restaurant of any kind on the French side of the island, and one of the very best restaurants on the entire island — is going to take a long summer vacation, starting July 24 and ending in mid-October. They certainly deserve it, after creating absolutely magical culinary delights for many years and starting again just a few weeks after hurricane Irma had struck. Lara and Ciro Russo have an extraordinary restaurant here which is not to be missed before they close on July 24.

We'll have more to say about Spiga before they reopen in October -- as usual. Bottom line, it is one extraordinary restaurant.

24. Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway

A major promo continues 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 skymed.com/jmb (that new website goes live soon), 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.

25. Restaurant of the Week: Pineapple Pete/Wasabi Charlie

For years, one of SXM's most popular restaurants has been Pineapple Pete, owned and operated by Pierre Ferland. It has always been one of the top places on the island for excellent Lobster Thermidor and a huge variety of other homestyle selections. Known for generous portions and great prices.

Pierre before Irma ran Sushitto at Port de Plaisance but now, the all-new Wasabi Charlie next to Pineapple Pete offers hibachi style cooking plus sushi and sashimi - it's all under one roof. Or, more accurately, several roofs in the same complex.

If that isn't enough, there are lots of games here for the whole family and even a mini casino. Bring the family for great fun, delicious food, and reasonable pricing. Both restaurants are long-time winners of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence,

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/8/19) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 7/2/19) New bar, great staff, service, and phenomenal food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 6/24/19 Mario's Bistro is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 6/17/19) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

Mandarin Pan Asian, Port de Plaisance (featured 6/10/19) Excellent Pan-Asian dining including Japanese, Thai, and Chinese. Nice setting near the casino at Port de Plaisance.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (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 as stupendous as it ever was, with spectacular dining in an equally spectacular restored building on the Emilio Wilson Estate. Ask to see the wine cellar and the museum. Open for lunch and dinner: not to be missed.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....

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.

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?

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.

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

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

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

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

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 (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 Group](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

26. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is www.skymed.com/jmb, now live; please bookmark that 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; 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.

27. Going Somewhere 10/9 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 from SkyMed after approval to 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.

Again, our new SkyMed website is www.skymed.com/jmb: please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site.

Thank you.

Customer stories are below.

28. *****SkyMed 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 X-Pats 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.

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.skymed.com/jmb, our new SkyMed site, going live shortly.. 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.

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; 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 skymed.com/jmb. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

29. Are You Military?

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

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

30. 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 www.skymed.com/jmb, our new site, going live shortly.

31. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

AMUSEMENTS

[Island Pedals Beer Cycle](#) (Philipsburg)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Starlite Car Rental](#) (Belair Resort)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

[Exclusive Car Rental](#) (new)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

[SkyMed International](#) (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Majesty Jewelers

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

Art of Time

Artistic Jewelers

Oro Diamante

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 Group*.

RESORTS:

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS:

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

SNOOPY'S

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Sale and Pepe

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

Pineapple Pete Restaurant

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant

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 Group*. 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 Group*.

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 Group](#)

Updated 7/2/19

32. 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 very soon.

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

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

**Your Business
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
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34. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our everythingSXM.com website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — 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 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):

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website

Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret>. If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact support@jmbcommunications.com

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

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

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

7/8/19 #V2-1206 4am EDT 10.8

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