

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/22/19: American Airlines; San Juan Connections; Boeing 737 Max 8; Divi; French Side Hotels; SXM Infrastructure; Flamingo & RP Room Pics; Carrefour; Spiga; Isola; Sky Dinner; Turtle Pier; Star Wars; [40 Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1208 --- July 22, 2019
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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



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

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http://everythingxsm.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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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather; Getting Here:

- Tropical Atlantic Could Awaken Next Week
- AA Is A Mess, USA Today Confirms

- **San Juan Unrest Sends RC "Harmony" to SXM**
- **Is it Safe to Connect Thru San Juan?**
- **737 MAX-8 Not Likely Back in the Sky Until November**

SXM Accommodations:

- **Urgent: Divi Celebrates Birthday With Quick 50% Off Rates**
- **French Side Suffering From Declining Room Availability**
- **Hotels Coming, But Can Infrastructure Keep Up?**
- **Flamingo, Royal Palm Post Remodeling Pictures**

Island Headlines for Tourists:

- **Carrefour on Union Road Reopens**
- **Spiga's Last Night is 7/23**
- **JMB Member Party at Isola is Sold Out**
- **"I Can" Foundation Founder Passes Away**
- **Where In The World Is Dr. Soc?**
- **"Sky Dinner" Coming to Port de Plaisance**
- **Miss Turtle Pier? It's Back, but "Nowhere Special"**
- **Star Wars Fan? Visit SXM's Yoda Guy Museum**
- **A "Feast For Your Senses": Roland Richardson Gallery/Museum**
- **Your Invitation to Our Next JMB Member Party**

- **Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb**
- **Spring Promo Underway for our SXM Island Discount Program**

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

 ---- *******Customer Stories*******
Protect Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed
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-- **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.

40 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 12/21/2019 1/4/2020 Week 51 & Week 52 (Christmas and New Years weeks) **Simpson Bay Resort** 2-Br, 2-Ba nice unit. Located across from the A pool and close to the B pool \$4,000 for both weeks Charles 708-254-

8444 ceeck@lincolnmtg.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/7/2020 4/4/2020 Week 10 11 12 13 **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort Sleep 6, Floor 4, close to Marina building.** Master suite can be used as sleep 4 with junior suite as lock off unit. Stay in one unit and rent out the other! Beautiful view of Simpson Bay with restaurants, jewelry store, casino, and grocery available on the resort and other restaurants available within walking distance. Balcony has full afternoon shade, perfect way to end your day on the beach. Unit to be completely refurbished during low season in 2019. \$17,000 per week Deborah 412-952-7577 d_henle@msn.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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 Group:



<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.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

- 1. Tropical Atlantic Could Awaken Next Week**
- 2. AA Is A Mess, USA Today Confirms**
- 3. San Juan Unrest Sends RC "Harmony" to SXM**
- 4. Is it Safe to Connect Thru San Juan?**
- 5. 737 MAX-8 Not Likely Back in the Sky Until November**
- 6. Delta Asks, What Stresses You About Flying?**
- 7. Where to Download NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart**
- 8. NHC Watches, Warnings, Etc. on Our SXM Site**
- 9. See Current SXM Weather Info**

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

10. **Urgent: Divi Celebrates Birthday With Quick 50% Off Rates**
11. **French Side Suffering From Declining Room Availability**
12. **Hotels Coming, But Can Infrastructure Keep Up?**
13. **Flamingo, Royal Palm Post Remodeling Pictures**
14. **SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online**
15. **Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of**
16. **Get Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide**
17. **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](#)

18. **JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates**

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

19. **Carrefour on Union Road Reopens**
20. **Spiga's Last Night is 7/23**
21. **JMB Member Party at Isola is Sold Out**
22. **"I Can" Foundation Founder Passes Away**
23. **Where In The World Is Dr. Soc?**
24. **"Sky Dinner" Coming to Port de Plaisance**
25. **Miss Turtle Pier? It's Back, but "Nowhere Special"**
26. **Star Wars Fan? Visit SXM's Yoda Guy Museum!**
27. **A "Feast For Your Senses": Roland Richardson Gallery/Museum**
28. **Your Invitation to Our Next JMB Member Party**
29. **Our SXM Euro Ovals are Back**
30. **Got Any SXM Questions?**
31. **Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway**
32. **Restaurant of the Week: Nothing Special**
33. **Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / skymed.com/jmb**

=====

34. **Going Anywhere?
SkyMed's Guaranteed Renewable Annual Membership is Just \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available**

=====

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

=====

36. **Are You Military?**
37. **Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate**
38. **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**
39. **Use Our SXM Weekly News Archives (Update)**
40. **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 www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Tropical Atlantic Could Awaken Next Week

Weather forecasters are beginning to look at an awakening of the tropical Atlantic perhaps starting some time next week.

If you live in or near any area that is ever impacted by any tropical cyclones, we urge you to check out www.crownweather.com, operated by Rob Lightbown who heads Crown Weather Services, our go-to source of information about everything related to weather.

We don't know what an "upward pulse of the Madden Julian oscillation" is, but we do know it can affect the formation of tropical systems. The height of hurricane season doesn't arrive for about six more weeks, giving everyone plenty of time to enjoy near perfect weather in SXM. Nonetheless, it is hurricane season, so it makes sense to keep an eye on tropical weather.

See Rob's site for detailed information, and subscribe to his program if you are ever at or near any tropical system's bull's-eye; it's the best out there. Please note that when significant storms threaten SXM, nearby islands, or the Gulf or East Coast of the US or the Canadian Maritimes, we will present current forecasts both in the Weather Center on our main site, everythingSXM.com, and we'll publish SXM weather-related Bulletins also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Definitely stay tuned.

2. AA Is A Mess, USA Today Confirms

American Airlines is becoming a lightning rod for complaints from many of its passengers.

Although the airline only has a small number of grounded 737 Max 8 aircraft, it posted more than 3900 flight cancellations in June alone and may well surpass that for July. Although some of these are due to weather conditions, the airline is blaming its Mechanics Union for aggravating the problem by performing maintenance significantly slower than the airline demands.

No matter who is to blame, passengers are pointing their fingers in the face of American and are saying that the cancellations are the fault of the airline and it must fix its problems. Passengers allege that the airline tells them the cancellations are related to "mechanical problems."

Criticism of AA isn't new. It has worsened since the merger of American and US Airways several years ago. In fact, we conducted an unscientific poll of our [SXM Facebook Site](#) members -- thousands of SXM travelers -- earlier this year. At that time, travelers rated American Airlines their *least favorite US carrier* serving SXM.

By contrast, JetBlue was rated as the top carrier — their most favorite, with lots of kudos also granted to Delta Airlines.

Here's a link to the [USA Today / Florida Today](#) article.

3. San Juan Unrest Sends RC "Harmony" to SXM

Royal Caribbean mega ship Harmony of the Seas was scheduled to make a stop in San Juan last week but because of unrest there, the ship came to SXM instead.

So far, SXM appears to be benefiting from the serious problems the Dominican Republic has had recently. Just this past week, yet another American tourist vacationing in the Dominican Republic passed away there after a short illness. SXM also appears to be benefiting, at least in the short term, from the current turmoil in San Juan.

Reacting to that substantial political unrest in San Juan, Royal Caribbean said that it canceled the stop in San Juan out of an abundance of caution, to protect its passengers and crew members. Tourism is Puerto Rico's dominant industry and every effort is being made there to defuse the current unrest as quickly as possible and return to normalcy -- but as of today, that seems highly unlikely any time soon.

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

4. Is it Safe to Connect Thru San Juan?

As noted in the previous story, there has recently been unrest in San Juan over the country's continuing serious economic and political situation following hurricane Maria .

Downtown San Juan demonstrations led to Royal Caribbean canceling one ship arrival last week, as reported in the previous story.

Our newsroom has received several questions from people asking whether it is safe to connect in San Juan airport.

There was a time when most US flights carrying people bound for SXM terminated in San Juan, where other flights made the connections aboard American Eagle or other carriers. That stopped several years ago and since then, SXM has had more nonstop flights coming from various points of embarkation. Bottom line, the reliance on San Juan Airport as a key point of connection for flights to SXM has waned considerably in the last several years. Nonetheless, some people continue to connect there. Based upon everything we know, there are no connection issues at San Juan Airport related to recent street demonstrations in San Juan -- not yet, anyway. *But the [situation in San Juan](#) continues to worsen, so we suggest travelers to SXM stay very aware of what's happening there in case agitation is further aggravated and impacts SJU Airport.*

5. 737 MAX-8 Not Likely Back in the Sky Until November

Following two fatal crashes of Boeing 737 Max 8 airliners early this year, Boeing Max 8 airliners were grounded worldwide to enable Boeing to determine what happened and fix it. The airliners' MCAS system was widely believed to bear a causal relationship to the crashes.

Many critics have beaten up not only the FAA but also Boeing for manufacturing the aircraft and declaring it fit to fly. Critics say Boeing and FAA were complicit in declaring the Airliner fit to fly without adequately testing it, since it was a derivative of the long-flying Boeing 737 family.

Consequently, Boeing continues to say it is taking pains to make sure it does things right this time — attempting to ensure that the 737 Max 8 will be the safest plane on the planet whenever it returns to service, something it quite clearly should have done a whole lot earlier. 346 people lost their lives in the 737 Max 8 crashes of new Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 jets.

When Boeing says it's ready, then the FAA will step in. It, too, has an enormous black eye for ever allowing the plane in the sky in the first place. Passengers and airline companies know to expect the FAA to take great pains to ensure that the Max 8 is flawless in every respect before it actually allows the aircraft to return to the skies.

When will it be back? Probably not until sometime in November if then — and that to us seems optimistic. Our own guess is that airlines would be lucky to be able to start phasing it back into service sometime during the first quarter of 2020. Many passengers have said they will wait a year after the jet returns to service before flying any 737 Max 8

aircraft regardless of federal approval.

6. Delta Asks, What Stresses You About Flying?

While American Airlines is struggling with a high disapproval rating and substantial customer dissatisfaction, its rival Delta Air Lines continues to rate high in customer popularity and seems determined to get even better.

In a survey currently underway, Delta is asking passengers what stresses them about flying; a link to more information about the survey is [here](#).

The airline is probably looking for reinforcements of its existing core beliefs, since it already rates very highly in customer satisfaction polls. It's taking bold steps to increase its lead over other carriers.

In fact, it is going head-to-head with young rival JetBlue in Boston, where JetBlue is the biggest airline. Now, Delta says it wants to increase the number of flights from Boston to in excess of 200 which will bring it eyeball to eyeball with JetBlue even as JetBlue starts service from Boston to the UK in a couple of years.

We bring all this up because we now expect within a few years that Delta may be flying to SXM nonstop from Boston — and using Boston as a key hub for both international passengers and domestic Delta passengers as part of the bargain.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

7. Where to Download NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

Blank hurricane tracking charts similar to those that have been used by the folks at the National Hurricane Center for many years are now available for download; download yours [here](#) (that's the NHC download site).

8. NHC Watches, Warnings, Etc. Are Our SXM Site

Regardless of whether there are systems being watched, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) posts Tropical Outlooks and other routine posts multiple times per day. 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 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 person to go to for accurate hurricane weather forecasting. Find out more at [crownweather.com](#).

9. 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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at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com***

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

10. Urgent: Divi Celebrates Birthday With Quick 50% Off Rates

If you're one of many people who has been considering increasing the number of times you visit SXM or increasing the length of your visits (or both), consider this rush Bulletin from DIVI resorts as your key to put things in gear.

To celebrate its 50th year in business, DIVI resorts is offering 50% off SXM vacations but you can only buy the offer in the next day or so, literally: [here are the details](#).

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>

11. French Side Suffering From Declining Room Availability

If you're interested in launching a condo property on the French side of the island, it appears that you're better advised to start it out as a hotel property to get near-term tax advantages. Then, in a few years, when the tax advantages end, you can simply convert it to the kind of condo property you actually want.

That appears to be what motivates many condo properties to act as rental clearinghouses for individual owners of condos in a property.

Confused yet? Read on:

To enhance income, many French side condo properties sell their individual condos to individuals who then allow management to rent the properties out, giving them a revenue stream. But even if that's not the case, if hotel properties are doing well for whatever reason, it behooves them to convert to condos and stay that way. A smaller staff is needed than would be the case at a hotel, reducing costs, and that helps with profitability.

The latest property to do this was Alamanda, a hotel on Orient Beach that was all but destroyed by hurricane Irma. It will not be reopening as a hotel, which we announced here some time ago. Its units are being used as individual condo properties.

Because this kind of conversion has been happening, the number of hotel properties on the French side has been dropping -- even without hurricane Irma. It was good news to hear several months back that the Riu Palace Hotel (formerly a Radisson Blu and L'Habitation) after being virtually destroyed by hurricane Irma was taken over by folks who are rebuilding and reimagining it and will run it as an upscale, younger demographic Secrets resort, an increasingly popular all-inclusive hotel concept. Despite that, the French side needs more hotel rooms and as you will

read in [this article](#), it has a long way to go.

12. Hotels Coming, But Can Infrastructure Keep Up?

Despite the news from the French side described in the previous article, hotels are coming to SXM — not just Secrets on the French side, but also the big Planet Hollywood Resort on the former site of the Irma-destroyed Sonesta Great Bay Beach Hotel in Philipsburg.

Some timeshare resorts on the Dutch Side are expected to soon announce expansions. That's good, since the island needs more tourists and is starting to focus on a younger audience by offering attractions that appeal to that demographic.

The question then becomes, can SXM's current infrastructure handle an increase in the number of tourists?

Simpson Bay most afternoons in high season delivers a rush hour similar to that in many US cities, so clearly something needs to be done. A suggestion by ERB of Island92 some time ago talked about changing travel patterns in Simpson Bay and in part of Cole Bay to a one-directional flow during rush hour. The proposal, which we have now obtained from ERB for publication next week here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), seems to us to have a touch of genius to it. From an island perspective, it should have great appeal since it would not cost much to implement.

So the answer is yes, the current infrastructure can handle increased traffic from a greater number of tourists expected in the near and long-term on the island. The island government just needs to act to enable roads to accommodate these increased numbers — and that should do the trick.

More on this will shortly appear in a FILE in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as well as here in *Weekly News* next week.

13. Flamingo, Royal Palm Post Remodeling Pictures

Although a number of timeshare owners of Diamond Resorts' Flamingo and Royal Palm Beach resorts in SXM are quite unhappy with the fact that it will take Diamond almost three years from the date of hurricane Irma to reopen both resorts, nonetheless substantial progress is being made on what has been a massive design and reconstruction project.

Diamond recently unveiled a number of pictures of its model units at both resorts, and those pictures have now been posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). As people post new messages in that group, some older messages slide down the page. So, use the search window in the group to find these photos of both Royal Palm and Flamingo.

We think what's shown in the models is a significant step above past accommodations in both properties; feel free to post what you think in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

14. 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.

15. 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](#).

16. 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.

17. 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 [everything.sxm.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

18. 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

19. Carrefour on Union Road Reopens

The Carrefour market that used to be on the union road near Port de Plaisance on the Dutch side, the Dutch side market closest to the French side, was totally destroyed by hurricane Irma. Last winter, complete reconstruction of the property began and the supermarket — with its interior thoroughly remodeled and reimagined — has now reopened for business.

It's an all-new building designed to be strong enough to withstand future storms with a mean personality like Irma..

To see pictures of the new Carrefour, search for it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Pictures were posted within the last week: it's quite appealing.

20. Spiga's Last Night is 7/23

Ciro and Lara Russo's Spiga Restaurant in Grand Case begins its seasonal closing on July 24, which means your last chance this season to enjoy this phenomenal restaurant will be tomorrow night, Tuesday, July 23 (which happens to be the night of our first island party of the summer at Isola on the Dutch side, which is sold out.) If you're on the island and have not made reservations to go to our island party, by all means call Spiga and see if you can still make reservations before they close.

After a very good winter season, Spiga will be taking extra time on its seasonal closing this year, not reopening until some time in October.

As we've said many times, Spiga is our favorite restaurant of any kind on the French side and is easily one of the top two or three restaurants on the entire island. For more information, see [www.Spiga-SXM.com](#).

21. JMB Member Party at Isola is Sold Out

Our Tuesday JMB Website Supporters Island Party at Isola is completely sold out. Those lucky enough to be there will be treated to a delicious array of appetizers provided by Marco Ferrante, restaurant general manager at Isola.

You'll have a chance to meet with and mingle with nearly three dozen other JMB Website Supporters members and a few guests.

Majesty Jewelers, one of the sponsors of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), has provided us with a \$75 gift certificate which will be given away at random to a JMB Website Supporters member attending the party. Also attending and acting as co-emcees will be Yvonne Mendenhall and Jennifer Novak, who have been moderators of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) for a number of years.

Please see story #28 for information on how you can go to our next JMB Website Supporters island party on August 23 at the Toppers Rhum Distillery. Preregistration is required.

22. "I Can" Foundation Founder Passes Away

Cassandra Gibbs, founder of the I Can Foundation foster home on SXM, has passed away after decades of service to children across the island.

Condolences to her family and to the many people whose lives she has touched over many years.

Here is the full story from [the Daily Herald](#).

23. Where In The World Is Dr. Soc?

Our friend Dr. Soc, Jeffrey Sochrin of Island92 radio, has been on one of his recent jaunts on Winair airlines and today (7/22/19) announces his latest vacation giveaway to a nearby island using Winair, the great little airline that offers quick, inexpensive, and fast trips to many nearby islands.

This is from Dr. Soc:

A new episode of "Where in the World is Dr. Soc?" begins on Island 92 (91.9) FM and Z105.1 FM on Jul 22, 2019. Both stations can be streamed at their respective websites, www.island92.com and www.z1051.com. Be sure to join Dr. Soc on Fresh Air in the Morning starting at 7 am on Monday, July 22nd. Soc will qualify one person each day Monday through Thursday, and then in the 10 AM hour on Thursday, July 25th, Soc will select the winner of the Grand Prize at random from the qualifiers. The Grand Prize winner will receive airfare for two (roundtrip to/from St. Maarten) on **Winair**, overnight accommodations, some great meals and fun stuff too! You just need to guess, "Where in the World is Dr. Soc?". Local St Maarten line: +1 721 544 3377 US Line: +1 786 693 9200 Anguilla Line: +1 264 498 3414

Good luck to our JMB members!

24. "Sky Dinner" Coming to Port de Plaisance

See what their announcement says, followed by a few comments:

"Big News!

"Sky Dinner sxm SXM sets up on the island of Saint-Martin at the marina of the princess casino, Hotel & Yacht Club (Union Road 155, Sint Maarten).

"The preparations for the departure are going well and we will be able to welcome you under the warm Caribbean sun from October 2019.

"You will be able to live this ultimate VIP experience at 50 meters in the sky of Saint-Martin, surrounded by a turquoise sea enjoying a fantastic view of the lagoon and on all the mega private yachts, in addition to seeing the planes take off at the - top of your table."

Comments...

We will succumb to the temptation to point out that Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten are two separate countries that inhabit one island, and that this project is on Sint Maarten, not Saint-Martin. There are other things about the announcement that raised our eyebrows but we'll just assume that's a function of the language barrier....

When we posted this information earlier this week in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), most people reacted that they aren't going, largely because the restaurant will be 50 meters above the ground (that's 164 feet up).

Among questions our readers asked, either online or by PM, were:

- What happens in the event of a power failure?
- Is the food cooked in the elevated restaurant or on the ground, and
- How does it stay hot if it is transported?
- How do people climb the 164 feet to the elevated restaurant?
- Are there bathrooms up there, or must people come down to find and use bathrooms? And, well, what happens to wastewater from the restaurant? Does the restaurant even have running water?
- What level of fire suppression apparatus will the restaurant have, and is there fire apparatus close by that can rescue people quickly should there be a fire?
- What is the capacity of the restaurant and what is its menu?
- How expensive is it?
- What kind of protection is there from wind, sudden showers, or earthquakes?

Those were practical questions which we are sure the developers will be answering over time, and we invite them to let us know so we can publish all their answers and related comments.

A much more serious question (if that's possible) is whether this entire project has been reviewed by Princess Juliana SXM Airport and whether the airport has fully blessed it. If so, no problem, but if not, some small planes approach the lagoon end of the airport runway for landing under some circumstances, and most aircraft taking off fly over the area where this tower restaurant will be located. What steps have been taken in concert with the airport to ensure the safety of everyone concerned in this airspace?

If the Airport has not been consulted or has not yet issued any response to these plans, our suggestion is that the Island Government order the project not be constructed until such time as the Airport has formally blessed it, and the developer has agreed 100% to any modifications necessary for the safety of all concerned.

We have sent a note about this project to the airport but have not yet received their reaction. As always, we'll keep you posted.

25. Miss Turtle Pier? It's Back, but "Nowhere Special"

SXM visitors who have been coming to the island for a number of years probably remember Turtle Pier restaurant which was located on Airport Road very close to SXM Airport.

The restaurant got its name because it rescued baby turtles, keeping them in secure pans and feeding them until they were probably more than a foot long and better able to fend for themselves in the open ocean. The thought was that since the mortality rate for baby turtles was so high, why not help them along?

The restaurant itself sold a huge variety of breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, but its most popular invention was Lobster Night during which lobster was served many different ways at very attractive pricing. The place was routinely sold out on lobster night. Owner Al Wathey spent most of his life in the restaurant and realized he was missing seeing his family grow up (a normal part of a restaurant owner's life), so he sold it quite a few years ago. The property was taken over by SXM Airport several years ago and will be part of the airport's expansion.

Back in those days, we remember seeing Al's very young daughter, Lilly, come into the restaurant to pick up some shrimp to put on her brand-new George Foreman grill; culinary genes run deep. A few years ago, Lilly opened Johnney Burger at the airport, selling a variety of delicious burgers made many different ways with Johnny cakes, traditional island rolls originally called Journey cakes. Hurricane Irma temporarily blew away Johnney Burger.

Fast forward to not long after Irma visited when Lilly, now married and with her own kids, opened Nowhere Special,

a new seafood restaurant near the Simpson Bay drawbridge where Al Wathey often shows up, where Turtle Pier recipes have been reincarnated by some of the original Turtle Pier kitchen staff, and *where customers of the former Turtle Pier are beginning to realize that their dreams of a return engagement for that venerable establishment are actually starting to come true.*

We were wall to wall busy during our last trip to SXM but expect and plan to try Nowhere Special during our upcoming trip this year. It has been getting rave reviews thanks to some of those lobster dishes, coconut shrimp, and many more.

Regardless of whether you ever tried Turtle Pier, you might very well be interested in trying Nowhere Special. So far, most visitors on their dining deck overlooking Simpson Bay lagoon agree that Nowhere Special is quite special indeed.

[More articles are below.](#)

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>

26. Star Wars Fan? Visit SXM's Yoda Guy Museum!

A number of years ago, the gentleman who designed Yoda for the Star Wars series of major motion pictures decided to spend a lot of time in St. Maarten. He also decided to open a museum dedicated not only to Yoda, but also to the greater world of design as it relates to the motion picture business.

That's how the **Yoda Guy Museum** on Front Street got its start.

Nick Malley, who is the Yoda guy, is often there and is wonderful to speak with. So whether you're a Star Wars fan or are simply interested in some truly fascinating motion picture industry memorabilia and fascinating info, definitely

stop by the Yoda Guy Museum. It will be well worth your time.

Here is their [website](#).

27. A "Feast For Your Senses": Roland Richardson Gallery/Museum

Over the years, many famous people have either visited SXM or have owned homes on the island. Among those people are Harry Belafonte, Richard Brenner, Oprah Winfrey, Olympia Dukakis, and Donald Trump. Perhaps the most well-known native son of SXM, however, is Roland Richardson, the foremost exponent of *Caribbean plein air Impressionism*.

Of all the fascinating things you can do while on SXM, none even approaches the pleasure of visiting Sir Roland's gallery museum on Rue de La Republique in Marigot on the French side. Roland has always been fascinated by color, and if you're fortunate enough to get to his studio early enough on Thursday mornings, when the studio/gallery/museum is open and he is there, he will talk a bit about color. Drawn from life, his paintings are an explosion of color and of light. We doubt you will ever see a collection of paintings that uses color more irresistibly than Roland's paintings, regardless of whether they depict live scenes from the countryside, still lifes, or people.

On that day, you can also watch him paint a subject from scratch, a tremendously fascinating experience. See his website, www.rolandrichardson.com, and make a reservation to go on the next Thursday when you visit the island. There are numerous items for sale in the gallery/museum as well, and your home will be all the better if you take some of these treasures home.

28. Your Invitation to Our Next JMB Member Party

We recently sent a mailing to our JMB Website Supporters members inviting them to register for our next SXM summer Island Party — our End of Summer party August 23 at the Toppers Rhum Distillery.

As is always the case, invitations go first to members of JMB Website Supporters, our long-time island discount program. If space is left after a few weeks in our party at Toppers, we may be able to invite a few other people — though it's rare for that to happen.

For much more information, please see the email sent to JMB Website Supporters a week ago. It contains complete Registration details.

The same letter also mentioned our January 3 Member Appreciation Luncheon coming up for 150 individuals who either are SkyMed members, friends of SkyMed members, or others interested in learning more about SkyMed, the USA's top provider of medical evacuation membership protection. SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling, and they also offer global programs. For much more information, please see www.skymed.com/jmb; when you have questions or are ready to buy, please phone us at 508-747-8281. That way we get credit when you sign up. Much more on the SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon will be announced later this year.

29. 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 the 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 do take extra time for processing.

30. Got Any SXM Questions?

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

31. 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.

32. Restaurant of the Week:

Returns next week....

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Isola next to Hollywood Casino in Simpson Bay Resort, 7/13/19. 100% redesigned, inside and out, floor to ceiling and everything inside. Just go.

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 Sushiitto) (7/8/19) 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.

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!

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.

33. 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.

34. Going Somewhere 10/15 or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions by Buying Guaranteed Renewable Annual Protection Now, Only About \$1.35/day

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.

35. *****SkyMed Customer Stories***** **Protect Against Pricy 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

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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*.

Century 21 St. Maarten (just joined)

RESORTS:

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS:

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

Frenchy Ludo's

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 7/21/19

39. 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.

**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.

40. 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)

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