From JMB / SXM Weekly News 8/5/19: Pilots; Invest 96L Weather; Hotel Special Edition - Adonis, Hommage, Planet Hollywood, Secrets; State Dept.; KimSha; Orient Update; Beach Weddings; Come to Our End of Summer Bash [36 Stories]

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Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Webite Login

## **Member News**

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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

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

**Important Note:** 

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

<u>Please do stay with us</u> for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 330,000 people around the world...

## 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.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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- -- 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 

#### #######

---- \*\*\*\*\*\*<u>Customer Stories</u>\*\*\*\*\* Protect Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed #######

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

-- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors ####### -- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

#### **36** 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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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** 12/14/2019 12/21/2019 Week 50 The **Atrium Beach Resort & Spa** Beautiful ocean front 1 bedroom suite with a full kitchen. King size bed, recently renovated. Great resort in Simpson Bay. \$1,100.00 Jason - 416-949-2737 jwachtel@rogers.com

#### SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

**SALE** 6/27/2020 7/4/2020 Week 26 **Royal Islander La Plage Beautiful one bedroom ocean view unit in Maho's premier timeshare property**! Sleeps 4 with King bed in private bedroom and queen sofa sleeper in living room. Watch the planes approach the runway while enjoying coffee or a cold beverage on your deck. Full kitchen with all the amenities. Convenient to beaches, restaurants, and Casino Royale. Great location, wonderful staff! \$1500 plus resort transfer fee (\$285) Sally 715-209-0478\_sallyandbillh@hotmail.com

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

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

#### Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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Find us on Facebook

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

#### "Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

Visit <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, 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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

## All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\*

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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

## **LEAD STORY: Drunk Pilots Arrested on UA, AA, and Delta**

Although it's incredibly rare by any standard, some pilots head to work after drinking. Aviation rules of course prohibit the practice. (In 50+ years of flying, thousands of flights, mostly business, we've never seen a single pilot arrested / replaced for drinking -- but when it happens it's headlines.)

The latest incident, just this past Saturday, was before a UA flight from Glasgow to the US. Here 's that story.

As NBC and others have reported, it has also happened on AA, Delta, and at others in recent years. The clear good news: it seems that global systems to detect, stop, and arrest individuals who do this seem to be quite effective and in most cases, offenders never even get on their airplanes.

## **1. Invest 96L Approaches Lesser Antilles**

According to the National Hurricane Center, an *Invest* is an area of disturbed weather that is being investigated by the NHC.

Such an area is expected to cross over the Lesser Antilles somewhere between late today (Monday, August 5) and tomorrow. If you are on the island, keep your radio on and follow the latest information delivered in local forecasts. We highly recommend you tune to Island92 radio, 91.9 FM, where Rob Lightbown, head of Crown Weather, is now also Chief Meteorologist. He will be providing late updates about the course of the Invest as well as its strength and how much rain SXM may receive, if any.

Early yesterday (Sunday) morning, the NHC revised its forecast, saying "significant development of this system is not anticipated," which is great news to all.

As of midday Saturday, Mr. Lightbown was expecting heavy rain and some wind. Also as of Saturday, the storm was not strong enough to be declared a tropical depression, let alone a tropical storm or hurricane. Although at this writing on Saturday it is not expected to be anything more than a minimal tropical storm at the worst, (and now not even late), nonetheless we know a few SXM business owners who out of an abundance of caution have returned from overseas vacations to monitor the progress of this Invest and make sure all their businesses and residences are secure.

Here is what meteorologist Rob Lightbown said on Saturday about the likely impacts of this system on the Northeast Caribbean today:

**Forecast Impacts To The Northern Lesser Antilles:** Squally weather, including 25 to 35 mph winds and locally heavy rainfall is forecast to develop across the northern Lesser Antilles on Monday afternoon and Monday evening and continue through Tuesday.

For the latest, most up-to-date information, please see our Everything SXM Facebook Group, where Rob regularly posts updates.

**Bear in mind** that if you live or work anywhere in the islands or on the US Gulf or Atlantic coast or even in the Canadian Maritimes, you at some time may be affected by tropical cyclones. It would be a tremendous advantage to you personally to see Rob's detailed storm updates which tell you what will happen, when, and where as storms approach. Many *SXM Weekly News* readers already subscribe to his inexpensive but not-to-be-missed service which we have highly recommended for years. Learn more and sign up at crownweather.com.

## **2. Tropical Wave Brings Much Needed Rains to SXM**

A tropical wave — common this time of year — crossed over SXM early last week. Although it brought much-needed rain to the long-parched island, it did not receive a warm greeting from tourists who would prefer to be able to go to the beach every day. Heavy rains made that option impossible.

People with farm animals throughout the region and who have vegetable gardens or who grow feed for cattle, horses, or goats all were happy to see the rain. Even tourists got the point that the rains would help prevent grass fires and make things a bit greener than the current beige or brown.

Please see story #1 about the system that may be headed toward SXM this afternoon and tomorrow (Monday and Tuesday).

## 3. Aircraft, Schedule Changes Likely As SXM Travel Heats Up

As more hotel and timeshare accommodations become available on the island, that increased inventory is enabling further increases in tourist traffic this fall and especially next winter on SXM.

Consequently, some of the equipment changes airlines customarily make to larger aircraft for high season could be made earlier, assuming aircraft are needed and available. Beyond that, we believe that some airlines — particularly JetBlue and Delta — could increase their flight frequency to the island. JetBlue could easily add another daily flight this winter from Lauderdale.

We've asked SXM Airport a number of questions on various topics of interest to SXM tourists. One of those questions is when, according to current estimates, preclearance will likely become a reality. It appears that Southwest Airlines is likely to make a decision on when it will start service based in part on the availability of US customs and immigration preclearance, which would allow flights from SXM to go to many more US cities as local flights.

That airline has stated in the past that coming to SXM is a matter of when, not if. The question is will it come from BWI or Fort Lauderdale. BWI is underserved for traffic to SXM and JetBlue is already flying from Fort Lauderdale and we think is likely to increase its flight frequency there this winter.

Also, JetBlue will start taking delivery of its all-new fleet of Airbus A220 aircraft next year, replacing its smaller, less efficient E190s. <u>The A220</u> -- destined to become a huge workhorse for many airlines -- has economics that will enable airlines to offer more flights from more cities profitably, a potentially huge boon to SXM.

Bottom line, regardless of when preclearance comes, SXM Airport is inevitably going to get busier.

## 4. Awaiting Airport's Answers on "Sky Dinner"

A few weeks ago, we reported here about *Sky Dinner*, an attraction planned for introduction this fall at Princess Port du Plaisance. We had a number of questions about the concept, which calls for dinners 160 feet in the air over Simpson Bay lagoon.

Although several of our questions regarded the tactics by which this restaurant would work, one question was whether the project had been reviewed and blessed by SXM Airport, since numerous small planes approach the airport over the lagoon and land facing westward -- and most large aircraft take off over the lagoon, turning right over the area near where this tower restaurant would be.

Our questions to the airport may have arrived while some key players were on vacation, so within the last few days we resubmitted them. We'll let you know what happens. Everyone wants to ensure that this project is safe and one of the aspects of safety is whether it could interfere with air traffic: We expect to find the answer.

### 5. 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 <u>here</u> (that's the NHC download site).

## 6. 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 <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u>.

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 <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u> 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.

## **7. See Current SXM Weather / Tracking Serious Weather**

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

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

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

2) Our "Weather" page at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.

3) Our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u>, which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see <u>www.island92.com</u>. 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: <u>http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG</u> .

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 <u>here</u>. 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.

## **Changing Your Email Address?**

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One for your **SXM Weekly News** subscription Quickly and Easily at our Site: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>

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

## About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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

## <u>Get 300+ SXM Discounts</u> <u>& Many Other Island Benefits,</u> <u>& (P. S.) Exclusive First-in-Line Invitations</u> <u>to Our Famous Members-Only Island Parties</u> <u>(see story 23 in this issue):</u> <u>Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership</u> <u>Today:</u>

<u>New JMB memberships</u>: 5 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$99; 1 yr., \$59 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>

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

### 8. Adonis Hotel Opens in Cupecoy This December

The 52-room Adonis hotel now being built near the American University of the Caribbean medical school and near the site of the Irma-destroyed Summit Resort Hotel is expected to be open during December of this year. Because of its proximity to both Maho beach and Cupecoy beach (walking distance), no pool is planned and no restaurants are on-site because many are located close by in the Cupecoy Village area and at Porto Cupecoy. A shop is planned for the new hotel.

Before the hotel opens this fall, we expect to publish pictures of the construction in our <u>Everything SXM Facebook</u> <u>Group</u>.

Also, this month we will be announcing a **vacation giveaway** to celebrate our main site, everythingSXM.com, surpassing 6 million visits last year (during which the island was still recovering from Irma). To celebrate the island's astonishing recovery, we will give away multiple vacations one of which will be at Adonis.

More news about Adonis and about our forthcoming giveaway will be published in future issues of SXM Weekly News as well as in our Everything SXM Facebook Group.

## 9. More on SXM's New Planet Hollywood & Secrets Resorts

Two of the biggest hotel development projects on SXM in many years will soon be chugging along simultaneously.

Already well underway is the transformation of the former Riu Palace Hotel (which before was a Radisson Blu and L'Habitation) into a rather fabulous new Secrets resort in Anse Marcel, French side.

Secrets is a popular chain of all-inclusive resort properties situated in many countries around the world. A significant number of the newest members of our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u> list visiting Secrets among their interests in SXM, which is now scheduled to open next February. In addition to a huge pool (still believed to be the largest on the island) and a wide expanse of beautiful beach, Secrets will feature several tiers of rooms and lots of dining choices day and night. The new Secrets St. Martin website is <u>here</u>. We will have much more on this new property between now and its opening in February 2020.

The most anticipated new hotel construction project on the Dutch side of the island is the Planet Hollywood Resort, soon to be erected on Great Bay beach at the site of the former Sonesta Great Bay beach hotel which, after many millions of dollars of upgrades, was totally annihilated by vicious cat 5 hurricane Irma in the fall of 2017. The property had been sold a few weeks before Irma to a company related to a Canadian airline. Construction had been expected to launch late last spring. It has not begun but the start of construction is expected very soon.

There has been no announcement about any change in the opening date which is still believed to be 2021. Once construction is underway, officials should have a better idea of exactly when it will open

As always, we'll keep you posted here and in our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u>, where we will also feature pictures.

### 10. "Hommage" Hotel in Nettle Bay a Big Hit

Chances are that you've never heard of the Hommage hotel in Nettle Bay.Actually, you probably have heard of it — but under a different name: it was formerly hotel Mercure St. Martin which, after millions of dollars in renovations has been taken private by its owner and general manager, Baki Arbia.

The beautifully decorated hotel has sumptuous rooms — about 150 of them, on Simpson Bay lagoon on the French side, about a mile west of Marigot.

Baki, who we've known for years, is an art lover and the property has many artworks executed in multiple media on the grounds and inside each building. It's both unusual and fascinating.

You'll find out much more about the hotel by visiting their new website,

## **11. "The Rest of the Story" on Hotels, Timeshares Still Coming**

There is much more news to come about additional hotel development and reopenings on SXM.

In addition to the properties mentioned in the previous stories, the <u>Westin St. Maarten Resort and Casino</u> in Cupecoy remains closed and Columbia Sussex officials remain silent about its future. Meanwhile, people on the scene appear to be telling customers of the Dawn Beach Club timeshare operation that the Westin will reopen sometime next year after reconstruction which won't begin until after work on the Dawn Beach Club has been completed.

Parts of the Dawn beach club, the timeshare operation at the Westin, are already open and have been serving customers for some time. Unofficially, word from some staff people is that a five star resort will be opening — but Columbia Sussex, which owns the Westin, remains mute.

The <u>Towers at Mullet Bay</u> appears to be largely functional and some timeshare owners have accused the property of renting out timeshare condos to non-timeshare owners while barring those same timeshare owners from using the facility.

Towers timeshare owners are not at all happy. Some have asked the Dutch side government to become involved in what some are starting to call the Towers at Mullet Bay "debacle" but the government has a long history of keeping hands off in such situations (Pelican Resort Club, Sapphire Beach Resort, Caravanserai Beach Hotel, and Ocean Club are four examples of where the government could have stepped in to help timeshare owners and didn't, timeshare owners say.)

There are also a couple of other construction projects at two current SXM timeshare resorts which we'll tell you more about in the coming months — with pictures. And a third timeshare project is imminent....

## **12. 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.

## 13. 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 <u>imbweb@jmbcommunications.com</u>. 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 <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u>.

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

<u>SkyMed Travel offers you a **110% Lowest Rate Guarantee** for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide.</u> 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.

## **15. 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** 

### **16. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updated**

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

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, go here.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

## **17. Should You Avoid Luggage that Charges Your Devices?**

Roughly 2 years ago, some inventive luggage manufacturers started introducing luggage capable of charging devices such as laptop computers, cell phones, iPads, and others.

The problem was that these devices contained lithium-ion batteries which at the time were causing a lot of problems including fires on airplanes.

Airlines looked at the innovative new luggage and quickly banned it. Later, some of them decided to allow such luggage to be checked if and only if the batteries were removable. The logic is sudden fires erupting in-flight from batteries inside suitcases in airline baggage compartments can cause catastrophes. If batteries are removable and kept in the passenger compartment with carry-ons, most airlines allowed them.

Should you buy a suitcase with USB and other ports and batteries that enable them to be used as charging devices while you travel? Quite frankly, we don't like the idea of widely proliferating use of lithium-ion batteries on airplanes. If one catches fire and the fire is not quickly extinguished, the fire could spread rapidly on board...

The airlines have adopted the moderate position that onboard charging suitcases can be used if they have removable batteries which are removed during flight and kept in the passenger compartment.

You'll need to make your own decision on this but for us, it's a product we won't buy.

### **18. Who Gets Ranked Well by the US State Dept.? SXM**

The US State Department recently released an enhanced listing of its travel advisories, which tell American citizens where they should and should not go.

The list was interesting but not surprising, as it showed SXM to be one of the safest places to visit in the Caribbean. You can see the entire list <u>here</u>.

## **19. Is It Safe to Swim at Kim Sha Beach?**

We received a question from a longtime reader recently which echoed questions we been asked over the years on

the same topic: is it safe to swim at Kimsha beach, the part of Simpson Bay beach between Royal Palm Beach Hotel and the Atrium Hotel?

We spoke with Island 92's Dr. Soc who contacted our friend Tadzio Bervoets, head of the Nature Foundation in SXM.

Kimsha is a busy place, made busier by the new presence of the Roxxy Restaurant next to Royal Palm Beach. Kimsha doesn't receive a tremendous amount of changing waters because it is somewhat in a cove, where there is less water circulation.

There are also many more people here since hurricane Irma, since many of the buses that previously went to Orient beach now come to Kimsha. In addition, boats are continuously entering and leaving the lagoon through the drawbridge, on the other side of Royal Palm Beach.

Tadzio's comment was that yes, Kimsha is safe for swimming, but he quickly added that there are better choices — places less closed off with greater tidal ebb and flow:

Once we obtain the exact text used by Tadzio, we will publish it in our Everything SXM Facebook Group.

## 20. Orient Beach Nature Reserve Issues Beach Update Report

This is an update of the status of Orient beach by the Baie Orientale Reserve Naturelle.

## 21. Get Married / Renew Vows in SXM? Azure Makes it Simple

Thinking of getting married in St. Maarten? The Azure Hotel is your one stop shop. From couple vow renewals to full blown extravagant beach weddings, Azure says "Let us handle all the details of your marriage certificate, ceremony, reception and dinner all right on beautiful Simpson Bay Beach. Whatever your style, we can make your dream wedding come true. Our intimate boutique hotel is the perfect place to stay with family and friends. Imagine no driving from one place to another and just walking out of your beach room to your wedding barefoot. Fawnette is a licensed minister and can handle everything from A to Z at the Azure. For details contact us at hoteliers@azurehotelsxm.com"

## 22. Carib Journal Readers Note SXM Among Top Nude Beaches

In case you been wondering where SXM beaches rate among the top clothing-optional strands throughout the Caribbean, here is the answer from readers of <u>Carib Journal</u>.

## **23. Come to Our End of Summer Bash at Toppers Rhum Distillery**

Here are all the details:

If you're a JMB Website Supporters member, and now even if you're not, you're invited to attend our August 23, 2019 JMB Members SXM Island Party to be held

at Toppers Rhum Distillery, Jobco Complex #3, Well Road #9, Colebay St. Maarten. Time: 6-8 pm. Arrive early please. Check-in will likely start a bit before 6pm.

You **MUST** preregister. Once you do, your confirmation will be emailed to you.

## Preregistration is required; see How To Register, below.

Island Party Features:

- Appetizers
- Welcome Drink
- Open Bar
- Rhum Tasting
- Mini distillery tour

To cover the cost of the open bar, the Toppers Rhum Distillery will charge \$15 per person to all attendees (cash) upon entry. There are no other costs unless you (wisely) decide to buy some of Toppers delicious rhums or souvenirs of your visit.

Learn much more about Toppers Rhum at toppersrhum.com.

#### **Special Guests!**

#### Guest #1:

<u>Noted British author Jacky Rom</u>, who does much of her writing at her "vacation" villa in SXM, is now also a <u>Netflix TV series</u> <u>producer and star</u>. She'll 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. This is about her new Netflix series:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNK0i1PpQk0

She will also have copies of her latest novel, *From Vegas to Villainy*, available for purchase and will be happy to autograph these first editions. More on the book is here: <u>https://www.amazon.com/Vegas-Villainy-Sandra-Bernstein-Chronicles/dp/191644007X</u>

#### Guest #2:

The second guest will be Topper Daboul himself, for whom Toppers Rhum Distillery is named. He'll be talking about his 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 or buying income property there:

www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm Use the Search Window to trace the word "Drake" to find news of this project. At this party, you'll be invited to sample some of Toppers' many rhum flavors. There will be mini-tours of the distillery, and you may decide you want the full scale tour also presented by the distillery during daily operations. If so, the Toppers Rhum folks will give you a discount certificate toward a reduced-cost full-scale Distillery Tour you can take during your trip to SXM.

#### How To Register...

This promises to be one of our biggest parties of the year, so please register early; registration is **now open**:

1. **Membership**: You must be a JMB member in good standing to attend but we are now also accepting requests from readers of Weekly News and our FB site. If your JMB membership has expired, please renew now at the Membership Renewal Center on the Secret Site, or by calling Membership Services at 508-830-3456 daytimes during regular office hours EDT. *If you're not a JMB member and want to check into membership, click the page curl on our main site, everythingsxm.com; you can join online there.* 

When phoning, leave your membership #, credit card info, billing address, and the length of renewal or reinstatement that you want:

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

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

2. Who Can Attend: Member and spouse / partner; you may bring a guest or two, but everyone \*must\* be preregistered. Sorry, no children under the age of 18 and NO EXCEPTIONS. We have space for up to 125 people. When registering you must give us the names and email addresses of your guests (max two.)

#### 3. What We Need / How To Register: Email

susank@jmbcommunications.com and in your email give us the names of who will be attending, your email address, and your JMB Website Supporters membership number. For security please also tell us your street address. We will acknowledge your email and confirm your attendance. If you have guests, give us their information as well. We'll confirm guests, we expect, later during August. <u>The Subject of your</u> email must be DISTILLERY PARTY Aug. 23.

4. **The Last Word About This Party:** Again, no children under 18, and cash is needed for the \$15 p/p venue charge for the open bar, regardless of whether you intend to use it.

*Register early.* This big JMB Summer Island Party has a chance to sell out soon, so don't delay your registration.

Admins / moderators from our Everything SXM Facebook Site will be in attendance.

If (and only if) space is still available after about 8/10, we'll enable a limited number of SXM Weekly News readers and members of our FB site to register; that info will be published later though **you can register now on a to-be-approved-if-space-is-available basis.** 

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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

## Get 300+ SXM Discounts & Many Other Island Benefits, & (P. S.) Exclusive First-in-Line Invitations to Our Famous Members-Only Island Parties (see story 23 in this issue): Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership Today:

<u>New JMB memberships</u>: 5 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$99; 1 yr., \$59 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

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

## 24. 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.

### **25. Got Any SXM Questions?**

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

## 26. Major <u>SkyMed Promo</u> 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 <u>we give you a free five-year</u> <u>extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership</u>. 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 <u>qualify for these bonuses</u>, you must buy by phoning us at (508) 747-8281 <u>or email Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed</u>. 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.

## **27. Restaurant of the Week:**

Returns soon ....

#### 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,** <u>www.pineapplepete.com</u> (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**, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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** <u>www.mariobistrot.com/en/</u> **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,** <u>www.vesnataverna.com</u> (featured 4/29/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Sunday.

**Emilio's** at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is 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, <u>www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant</u> 4/15/19. Just go....

**Avantika Thai** <u>www.avantikasxm.com</u> (featured 4/8/19) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai. **IZI Ristorante Italiano,** <u>www.iziristoranteitaliano.com</u> (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** <u>http://www.sxmtoppers.com/</u> (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,** <u>www.jimboscafe.com</u> (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 <u>Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group</u>. Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

## 28. 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.

## 29. Going Somewhere 11/5 or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90day 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 <u>www.skymed.com/jmb</u>: please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site. Thank you.

Customer stories are below.

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

Emergency medical evacuations are <u>payable in cash in advance</u> and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- <u>unless</u> <u>you have a SkyMed membership</u>. SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and where your health insurance actually works. It's available to Americans and Canadians and to 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 <u>SkyMed in action</u>:

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

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

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

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

<u>A woman from Virginia</u> shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She

tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay** when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

<u>A member of the clergy</u> 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.

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

**Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere**. Do it today. To learn more, visit <u>www.skymed.com/jmb</u>, 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: <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweekly.../SkyMedServices.pdf</u>

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 <u>skymed.com/jmb</u>. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

## See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

## **31. Are You Military?**

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

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

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

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

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See www.skymed.com/jmb, our new site, going live shortly.

### **33. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)**

#### AMUSEMENTS

Island Pedals Beer Cycle (Philipsburg)

#### **CAR RENTALS:**

Leisure Car Rental

#### **<u>Starlite Car Rental</u>** (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:**

<u>IZI</u>

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#### **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 <u>blueparadiserealty.com</u>.

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

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

Updated 7/21/19

## 34. 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.

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

SXM Weekly News, our <u>everythingSXM.com</u> website and its Hurricane Center, and our <u>Everything SXM Facebook</u> <u>Group</u> — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — <u>are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our</u> <u>Sponsors</u>.

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 <u>susank@jmbcommunications.com</u> with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly.Winter is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases throughout this year and into 2020. Contact us today for more information.

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

<u>Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured</u> 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: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>.

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

\*2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent sale/index.shtml</u> 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. To change your password, click that same link.

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

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

See <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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

To unsubscribe, go here: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>. You **CAN** <u>NOT</u> 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 <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>; 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, <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>. If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact *support@imbcommunications.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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