

From JMB/SXM Weekly News 8/12/19: Three Fugitives Caught, Jailed; Planet Hollywood is "Go"; Tropics; SXM Airport, AA; JetBlue; 737 Max 8; Strange "Tax Holiday"; Your Invite to Our End of Summer Party [31 News Stories]

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**Vol. 2, #1211 --- August 12, 2019**  
**News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**

===== EXTRA Edition =====



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## **Member News**

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

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

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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.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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You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](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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---- **\*\*\*\*\*Customer Stories\*\*\*\*\***

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**31 News Stories This Week**

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**Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](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** 10/19/2019 11/2/2019 Week 42 and/or 43 LaVista Beach Resort Week 42 studio, top floor, week 43 is studio, ground floor. Great location, nearby grocery, restaurants and casino. 2 swimming pools on property with great views of the ocean. Renter will pay timeshare TAX OF \$50 per week. Rental is \$900 per week or \$1700 for both weeks Sandy 727-580-4343 [kpsandy@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kpsandy@tampabay.rr.com)

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

**SALE** 2/22/2020 3/14/2020 Week 8, 9 and 10 **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Both "A" and "B" sides. Sleeps 6. "A" side has full kitchen, dining area, living room (tv) with 2 Murphy beds, king bed in master(tv) and full size/double vanity bathroom. "B" side, aka Junior lockout, has 2 full beds(tv), full bath/double vanity, small kitchen with mini fridge, toaster, microwave and coffee maker. Each has own balcony overlooking Simpson Bay, where you can enjoy the Regatta. \$23,500.00 per week Camille 540-207-0337 [camijammer@aol.com](mailto:camijammer@aol.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:**

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

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

*Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):*

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

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

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**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](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. Tropics Stay Quiet for August, But in September...

For now, the tropics continue to be quiet, a continuation of the relatively quiet month weatherwise being experienced in the Caribbean.

No tropical development that would or could affect SXM is anticipated over the next couple of weeks. Should that change — or should there be a sudden spin up of a tropical system that could affect many of our readers — chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather Services, [crownweather.com](http://crownweather.com), will be posting news about it directly in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). An increase in activity "somewhere" in the Atlantic is expected by September but it could happen earlier.

As we previously pointed out, if you are ever in the path of any tropical system, it would behoove you to take advantage of the very inexpensive private forecasting offers of Crown Weather, which has been our go-to source of tropical weather forecasts and information for many years. Other meteorologists regard Rob as the go-to person for hurricane related information; he is *the* expert.

For more information, see his site. You will also find some interesting satellite images and radar loops in the Weather Center on our main site, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com).

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## 2. Airport Still Mired in Financial Issues; Solutions Due?

Since last winter, SXM Airport has been guaranteed \$100 million in loans from both the World Bank and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Although there are many twists and turns to making this happen, it seems to us that after six months have elapsed since loan talks began — and nearly two years have elapsed since hurricane Irma walloped the SXM Airport terminal building — the government should long ago have completed steps to get the money, and get the airport terminal back in full operation.

There is currently reason for optimism since SXM's Minister of Finance is finally saying that [solutions are at hand](#); we hope he's right, and that everything else that needs to be done in the terminal building gets fast-tracked so everything can be completed quickly. This has taken far too long. Delays damage traveler perceptions and hurt the island economy.

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## 3. AA Schedules Max 8 Flights for November

Some American Airlines passengers scheduled to fly to the island during the busy November travel season are telling us now that they were astonished to learn from American that AA had scheduled them aboard Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft that month. Those are the planes that have been grounded since March thanks to two fatal crashes caused, apparently, by malfunctioning software and other Boeing issues.

What exactly is AA thinking? Southwest Airlines, the biggest user of 737s Max 8 aircraft, has pushed reintroduction of its Max airplanes into next year. It would seem smart for AA not to be scheduling any of its grounded airliners until they are cleared by the FAA to return to the air. The fact that it has apparently put them in its November schedule — as passengers are reporting — makes the airline look foolish since it is wasting everyone's time and inconveniencing passengers in the process.

All of the several passengers who discovered they were scheduled aboard one of the grounded airliners this coming November asked for and received changes to other flights incorporating other aircraft. AA needs to put on its big boy pants and start behaving like an adult: criticism of that airline continues to soar, for a litany of service-related reasons, and there is no sign of any sensible response from the airline.



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## 4. Jet Blue Forces AA to Cut MIA-SXM Pricing

For years, AA has had the only consistent nonstop service from its big hub in Miami to SXM.

Earlier this year, scrappy young rival JetBlue began daily nonstop morning flights to SXM from neighboring Fort Lauderdale at prices that were far less than American was charging for its MIA-SXM flights.

JetBlue's FLL-SXM flights have been very successful, to the point where we would be surprised if the airline doesn't launch a second daily flight from Fort Lauderdale starting as early as this winter. American Airlines had had a virtual monopoly on nonstops from the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area until JetBlue showed up. JetBlue has said in the past that it likes entering new markets where it sees underserved routes for which another airline is currently charging high fares. JetBlue fares were not much more than \$200 round-trip upon launch, and have remained low. By contrast, American's flights from Miami were hundreds of dollars more.

Now, we are hearing that American has cut its round-trip fare for later this year to about \$270, considerably lower than before. (Jet Blue is still lower.) There's only one logical conclusion here: competition from JetBlue is what made this happen.

On behalf of thousands of passengers who fly from South Florida to SXM every week, THANKS to JetBlue.

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## 5. Still No Airport Answers on "Sky Dinner"

We've written multiple times in recent week about Sky Dinner, a new dining attraction slated to come to Princess Port du Plaisance resort this fall.

We have forwarded a number of questions about the restaurant to the people who are responsible for it, but they haven't bothered to answer. Since the restaurant is going to be suspended 160 feet in the air, we also sent questions about it to SXM Airport since low-flying small aircraft sometimes fly over the lagoon — where this is slated to be suspended — when taking a westward approach to the airport. We have not yet heard from SXM Airport and will pursue that this week.

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## 6. 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).

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## 7. 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](#).

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## 8. See Current SXM Weather / Tracking Serious Weather

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

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

- 1) **[Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.**
- 2) Our "Weather" page at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook 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](http://www.island92.com). They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 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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## **Changing Your Email Address?**

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email  
and Sign Up Your New One  
for your SXM Weekly News subscription  
Quickly and Easily  
at our Site: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

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

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## **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 First-in-Line Invitations  
to Our Famous Members-Only Island Parties  
(see story 19 in this issue):  
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](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>

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## **9. Planet Hollywood Gets Green Light; Opening Winter, 2021**

The 450 room Planet Hollywood Resort slated for Great Bay beach at the edge of downtown Philipsburg received its final approval for construction late last week from the Dutch side government. Officials say construction will take 18 months, which means the resort is not likely to open until late winter, 2021.

There had been a public comment period in May during which some objections were expressed by locals. We haven't seen anything clearly explaining what those objections were or how they were mitigated, if they were mitigated — but in any case the project is going ahead. Here is [that story](#) from the *Daily Herald*.

Please see the next story, which relates to both Planet Hollywood and the Secrets resort now being built in Anse Marcel; it is expected to be open early next February.

*We will start an extensive series of photo essays on new hotel and timeshare construction on SXM starting late this year, as the 2019/2020 season gets going; there is lots of hotel construction underway and it will be interesting to watch.*

Please see the next story.

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## **10. The Potent Combination of Planet Hollywood & Secrets**

SXM has long needed to breathe new life into its visitor profile, largely because of the aging demographic of its timeshare owners, who still represent a majority of all stayover tourists. Although many younger timeshare owners are now buying or inheriting weeks from the original purchasers, nonetheless SXM needed a younger, affluent demographic to help it revive its glory days.

Now, many projects are underway which will help make that happen. Sonesta Ocean Point, the exclusive luxury resort at Sonesta Maho, is a beautiful property and was really the forerunner of the current increase in all inclusive high-end resorts.

Rumors say that the reincarnation of the Westin in Dawn Beach next year will be a five-star resort, though owner Columbia-Sussex has made no public announcements about that.

As we previously reported, the **Secrets** resort on the former site of the Riu Palace in Anse Marcel is ahead of schedule on construction and now expects to open early in February, 2020. Many fans of Secrets resorts have joined our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and have praised that chain lavishly there. **Planet Hollywood**, a known commodity to many Americans, also provides a high end all-inclusive hotel experience to its younger, more affluent demographic. The addition particularly of **Planet Hollywood** and **Secrets** to the island's portfolio of resorts is a huge boon for the island, since it will add many jobs to both sides of the island and bring in that higher-end demographic.

Many readers of *SXM Weekly News* are stayover tourists and also timeshare owners who are routinely roundly critical of all-inclusive resorts. As long-time visitors to SXM already know — and as future visitors to all resorts will quickly learn, SXM remains the culinary capital of the Caribbean with great restaurants on both sides which merit visits from people new to SXM. Some people like all-inclusives and will continue to visit them, but we expect many people who visit the new resorts once they open will quickly decide to try some of the best restaurants on the island. Those places possess a hard-earned expansive renown — which is great for the future of all SXM businesses

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## 11. SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online

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

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

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November seminar is now available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#).

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

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

*Spacious New Townhouses on Simpson Bay Beach:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SkyMed Travel offers you a **110% Lowest Rate Guarantee** for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through *SkyMed Travel*.

### **What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):**

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

**Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for *Weekly News* readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.**

You won't be disappointed.

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

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

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

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

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## 15. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updated

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

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

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

## 16. SXM Police Arrest Three for Murder after Intense Investigation

Island residents and tourists alike recall the early June late night attempted robbery on the street near Maho beach not far from the Driftwood bar. The robbery attempt was made against a young woman whose father stepped in to protect and defend her only to be fatally shot by one of three people who then escaped by car.

Dutch side police and the French side gendarmerie very quickly launched an intense joint investigation which has now resulted in the arrest and incarceration of the three individuals believed responsible.

What follows is a statement issued late on Friday by the Dutch side police as well as a key minister in the Dutch side government::

*Three suspects in ongoing armed robbery investigation arrested*

*The Police Department (KPSM) is proud to announce that detectives investigating the ongoing armed robbery case involving a Canadian male tourist and his daughter that took place on June 5th 2019 just after 11.00 p.m. on Beacon Hill road have arrested three suspects involved in this case.*

*During this robbery the victim identified as Sylvain Valade in his efforts to protect his daughter from any harm was shot and unfortunately died later of the wounds he sustained at a hospital in the United States. The daughter of the victim was not physically injured but was emotionally traumatized by the incident.*

*Directly after committing this heinous act the robbers fled the scene in small white vehicle towards the French Side of the island and have been in hiding. This incident shocked the entire community of Sint Maarten including visitors to the island and was covered by international media.*

*The team of the KPSM Special Unit Robbery immediately initiated an investigation and gave this case highest priority in order to locate and apprehend the culprits responsible for this terrible act and bring them to justice. The SUR-team worked tirelessly with persistence and in close cooperation during many long hours with the local Prosecution Service and the French Gendarmes to solve this case which started just over two months ago.*

*Even though Sint Maarten is a very small island separated into two different countries with open borders, the judicial process which then becomes a challenge has to be respected and followed. This judicial process however did not discourage the SUR-team or the other judicial entities assisting in this investigation.*

*Today we are very happy to say that the three suspects are behind bars and that they are cooperating with the investigation. The suspects at this time will remain in custody for questioning and further investigation. The community of Sint Maarten and visitors to the island should feel safer that these culprits are off the streets.*

*Police Force of Sint Maarten (KPSM) has put all resources into this investigation and will do everything necessary and in its power to bring closure to this case for the family and friends of the Sylvain Valade.*

The Honorable Minister of TEATT Steven Johnson

*On June fifth this year, the family of Sylvain Valade suffered a horrific loss while he was vacationing on our Island. The news shocked us all and today still pains us as we recall the events that unfolded on that night.*

*Nothing can take away the pain from the loss that the Valade family has suffered. To have it occur at all is beyond words, and to have it happen here on our shores where we welcome and embrace all visitors from around the world each year is equally unacceptable. No one should have to ever worry about their safety while visiting our shores.*

*I hope that the news of the capture and arrest of the suspects can bring some degree of comfort in the knowledge*

*that they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Our country mourns with you still today, and we will be unrelenting in our pursuit of justice.*

*I want to thank the many people who made an effort in one way or another to offer some comfort to the Valade family in their time of mourning. I think the police also deserve to be highly commended for their swift work.*

*In times like these, there are no set words that can be used to comfort the grieving. While you mourn, however, know that we mourn with you and we pray that God grant you strength and peace as you carry on the memory of your loved one.*

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## 17. Tax Holiday Set for Dutch Side Resorts - Including Alegria

The government of the Dutch side of SXM has declared a tax holiday for several resorts. You'll see the complete story [here](#).

There are a number of things about this decision that on the face of it are peculiar.

Apparently not all heavily impacted resorts were given a tax break. We know of one resort, for example, that reopened rather quickly and that pays roughly \$30,000 per month in taxes to the island. They were not given any break by the Dutch side government. Developers spent their own money to get back in business quickly — an expense of millions of dollars before any insurance money was paid.

One of the truly bizarre things about this decision is that one resort which was given a substantial tax break was the Alegria resort, formerly Caravanserai. Ray Sidhom, the billionaire credit card magnate who took it over after bankruptcy, immediately sent an email to all timeshare owners at the time telling them that their timeshare contracts were null and void. Evidently neither he nor his lawyers were aware that timeshare laws on the island require new owners to respect existing contracts.

Although there is no such thing as class-action lawsuits on the island, a group of timeshare owners nonetheless got together and went to court and have won several times, though Sidhom has appealed each time, trying to outlast them. That has never worked and the case continues in the court system.

We published this news in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) at once upon receiving it late last week. Timeshare owners who published their comments were not happy; they characterize giving a tax break to Alegria as essentially rewarding what they regard as Sidhom's bad behavior toward SXM timeshare owners.

Although we know some government officials monitor our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) we have seen no response from them indicating why they chose to deliver a tax break to a billionaire with a virtually empty hotel who has a long track record on the island that many regard as anti-consumer.

Sidhom changed the name of Caravanserai to Alegria after taking it over. He proposed and even published artist renditions of a high-rise on his property near the end of the airport runway, as well as creating a yacht basin in the ocean on coral reefs. The airport was profoundly unhappy and went to court to stop the high-rise, since many small aircraft routinely fly over that end of of the resort when approaching the airport from nearby islands for landings.

Environmental authorities took great exception to the yacht basin, another bad idea, since it threatened the reef and since occasional rough surf could easily wreck boats moored unprotected in the open ocean.

One court decision allegedly prohibited Sidhom from making any modifications to the existing property without court authority. Critics charge that he has breached that prohibition; we obtained photography of some demolition he allegedly undertook in what critics charged was a violation of the court's order.

Now, he is already creating marketing materials renaming the resort yet again, this time to [The Morgan](#). Some would argue that since Alegria has gone nowhere in the wake of Sidhom renaming it, he is now trying yet another renaming. "It's like putting lipstick on a pig," one critic contended. "Even after you put lipstick on, it's still a pig."

Again, the government has not stated how it selected resorts to receive this tax break. Many resorts were severely impacted, including Oyster Bay Beach Resort, now fully reopened; Simpson Bay Resort, also (we believe) fully reopened except for the Calladium, Croton, and Dieffenbachia buildings which were destroyed by hurricane Irma. Both Summit Resort Hotel and the Ocean Club were completely destroyed by Irma and have closed permanently.

## 18. About This "Extra" Edition

Although news never really stops happening, some weeks are lighter than others. Until late last week, things were light in terms of breaking news related to SXM. Then the police arrested three suspects in the case described in story number 16; the Planet Hollywood Resort destined for Great Bay was given its final green light to start building; and the Dutch side granted tax breaks to several resorts, leaving timeshare owners and many people involved in the ownership and management of other resorts totally bewildered.

We had been contemplating taking a very rare week off this week, but when all this happened within a span of a few hours we called the troops back to work on this special edition for our nearly 333,000 readers worldwide. We are still trying to give everyone involved a few days off, which they richly deserve; hopefully we can do that soon. When we do, we will publish a quick message to all readers both by email and in our growing [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 19. You, Yes You, Are Invited to Come to Our End of Summer Bash at Toppers Rhum Distillery: Registration Required

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** register. Once you do, your confirmation will be emailed to you.

**Registration 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](http://toppersrhum.com).

**Special Guests!**



### Guest #1:

Noted British author Jacky Rom, who does much of her writing at her "vacation" villa in SXM, is now also a Netflix TV series producer and star. 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:

<https://www.amazon.com/Vegas-Villainy-Sandra-Bernstein-Chronicles/dp/191644007X>

### 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](http://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 rum 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 Rum 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, everythingxsm.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://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>

2. **Who Can Attend:** Member and spouse / partner; you may bring a guest or two, but everyone *\*must\** be registered. **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.) *YES nonmembers can register now for this party as well.*

3. **What We Need / How To Register:** Email [susank@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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. The Subject of your 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 now.* This big JMB Summer Island Party has a chance to sell out quite soon, so don't delay your registration.

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

We are now enabling a limited number of SXM Weekly News readers and members of our FB site to register: **you can register now.**

## 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 First-in-Line Invitations**  
**to Our Famous Members-Only Island Parties**

**(see story 19 in this issue):**  
**Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership Today:**

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

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

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

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## 20. Our SXM Euro Ovals are Back

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

Order three for \$15 or five for \$20. Pay through PAYPAL payable to jeff@jmbcommunications.com. Include your US or CANADIAN address (none shipped elsewhere). Style may vary SLIGHTLY from 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.

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## 21. Got Any SXM Questions?

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

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## 22. 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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## 23. 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**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://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](http://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.mariobistro.com/en/](http://www.mariobistro.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](http://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](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant) 4/15/19. Just go....

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Papagayo**, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

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

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

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

**You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#).** Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

## 24. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://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.

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## 25. Going Somewhere 11/15 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](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed.**

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

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

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

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

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

Customer stories are below.

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## 26. \*\*\*\*\*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](http://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.*

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

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See [skymed.com/jmb](http://skymed.com/jmb). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

**See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits**

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## **27. 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 [everythingssxm.com](http://everythingssxm.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.

## 28. 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), our new site, going live shortly.

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## 29. 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](http://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

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## **30. 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.

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**Your Business  
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused  
Website That Works.**

**That's what we do:**

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

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

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

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

*SXM Weekly News*, our [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook 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](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly. Winter is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases throughout this year and into 2020. Contact us today for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 5: For Members Only**

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). To change your password, click that same link.
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .Your username and password are required.

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

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

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