

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 10/14/19: AA; 737 Wing Cracks; S/W Pilots Sue Boeing; Caravanserai T/S Owners Still Fighting in Court; Ocean Club, Mullet Bay Tower Owners Told Nothing; **NY Times** Story on SXM; GEBE; French Side Water; Izi; Flu Shots; Turtle Pier; Last Call for SXM Ovals [39 News Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1219 --- Monday, October 14, 2019  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

\*\*\*\*\*TIMESHARING & AIR TRAVEL SPECIAL EDITION\*\*\*\*\*



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

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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*

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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**Important Note:**

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

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

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

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-- ***Traveling Anywhere In January or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now***  
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---- \*\*\*\*\****Customer Stories***\*\*\*\*\*

***Cover Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed***  
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-- ***Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate***

-- ***Please Patronize JMB Sponsors***

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**39** 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** 12/28/2019 1/4/2020 Week 52 **Royal Islander Club** Extremely large 3 bed/3 bath that sleeps 12. Fully equipped with stainless steel kitchen appliances, washer/dryer and hot tub on huge terrace overlooking the pool and Maho Bay. Grocery store on ground floor of building, casino, restaurants, shops and clubs within a 2 minute walk.

Access to tennis courts and Sonesta Beach Resort facilities. Ten minute walk to famous Mullet Beach, 10 minute drive to Simpson Bay, 3 minute drive to airport. \$3000/week Howard 514-747-1314 or 514-941-7171 [howardwolfe@gmail.com](mailto:howardwolfe@gmail.com)

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

**SALE** 2/11/2019 2/23/2019 Week 7 **Diamond Flamingo Beach Resort** Ocean front extra large 1st floor end studio with great view, King size bed and queen pull out couch, 2 TV's, Full kitchen, dining table and patio that overlooks beach. There is a partition that separates sleeping area for privacy. Resort has midweek maid service, 2 beaches, large infinity pool and is an easy walk to Hollywood Casino, several restaurants, Peli Deli mini-mart, & gift shops. Free Parking on premises. \$8,000.00 M.J. 978-369-9305 [maryjtn@gmail.com](mailto:maryjtn@gmail.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**

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### **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.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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**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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml). Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

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## 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*

## 1. Airport Reconstruction Financing Papers Get Signed This Week

Finally — nearly a year after the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands proposed about \$100 million in funding for completion of the reconstruction of SXM Airport — financing papers get signed this week.

Representatives of the recently defunct Dutch side government (which has fallen nine times since Country St. Maarten formed 10/10/10) said the reason for the long delay was the complexity of the financing arrangements.

We hope to get with senior airport officials in the next few weeks to talk in depth about the timetable for completion of all renovations and for an update on the status of US customs and immigration preclearance, and we'll report on all that as soon as it becomes available.

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

## 2. Wing Cracks Ground 38 Boeing 737 NG Jets (NOT Max)

Ever since Boeing started production of its 737 aircraft back in 1966, it has produced more than 10,000 of them. The 737 has been a global workhorse for decades, although it was originally overshadowed by the Douglas DC9 twin engine narrowbody aircraft.

But in the last year, the 737 has been a massive headache for Boeing, largely because of the crashes of two 737 Max aircraft that killed 346 passengers and resulted in the global grounding of the aircraft since March of this year.

Last week, we reported on cracks in a wing component in some Boeing 737 NG jets, a series produced before the Max was introduced and that also has been widely sold. The aircraft are not old, so the discovery of cracks in "pickle forks" - a component that helps attach the wing to the airliner's fuselage -- was alarming, requiring immediate inspections of hundreds of aircraft.

With 737 Max aircraft already out of service, the grounding of 38 additional 737 NG aircraft further strains the system just as it begins to head into some of the busiest travel dates of the year in November and December. If you plan to fly between now and midwinter and you do not yet have your flights reserved, do it as quickly as you can. This will be an especially busy winter season for travel to SXM and the shortage of some widely used 737 aircraft doesn't help with seat availability.

Here is more on the [737 NG](#) situation.

## 3. Southwest Pilots Sue Boeing, Blast 737 Max Safety

In what has to be one of the oddest lawsuits we've ever heard of, members of the pilots union representing



Southwest Airlines are suing Boeing for \$115 million. Their lawsuit slams the safety of Boeing 737 Max aircraft, of which Southwest owns 28.

The pilots charge that it is Boeing's fault that the planes are currently unfit to fly, so — they say — Boeing needs to compensate them for pay they have missed due to their inability to fly the 737 Max.

To be sure, these pilots aren't happy about Boeing's release of its 737 Max without adequately ensuring its safety. The FAA is equally culpable, many observers allege.

But a pilot's union attempting to recover lost wages from Boeing as a result of a safety grounding to us simply seems flat-out bizarre. It would have made more sense to sue them for emotional pain-and-suffering once it became obvious that the aircraft should never have approved in its original state. After all, the pilots had been flying unsafe 737 Max aircraft for several months and theoretically could have had the same fate as the 346 passengers and crew members of the two planes that did crash.

We'll keep you posted on what happens with this suit. More information is [here](#).

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## 4. Stubborn AA Continues To Schedule Grounded 737 Max Flights

If you created menus for a restaurant, it would make little sense to ballyhoo the availability of Filet Mignon on special days at special prices so people could come in and order it if in fact you didn't have any.

That's exactly what American Airlines is doing by scheduling 737 Max flights when it doesn't have any 737 Max airplanes to fly. So, the airline sells the seats, then cancels or reschedules the flights or, in some cases, switches to other types of aircraft if they are available.

Why do that when the only result is to inconvenience and anger passengers? Bottom line -- that is exactly what AA continues to do, defying logic and common sense.

Please also see article 5, which may explain why they're doing this.

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## 5. AA Finally Admits It's a Hot Mess

Finally there seems to be some recognition from American Airlines that it's a hot mess.

With its stock tanking and its reputation sinking, AA today seems to be popular only among its elite frequent flyers. The vast majority of its passengers seem to be very unhappy about being treated like cattle on board their aircraft and through their various systems for ticketing and processing passengers.

When we did an informal, unscientific poll several months ago in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) of group members' favorite and least favorite airlines, JetBlue captured the favorite spot and American Airlines won the dubious distinction of being the least favorite airline among our members, even nudging out long-criticized Spirit Airlines which has far fewer flights serving many fewer cities.

Here's the [full story](#) about AA's current unpleasant status.

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## 6. Time for Boeing to Replace the 737 Series...

Boeing has stiff competition from Airbus, the European consortium, in the single aisle, twin engine jet market. The competitiveness of each manufacturer has a direct bottom line effect on its long-term profits. Since derivative aircraft face a less rigorous review process than new aircraft, their time-to-market is faster. Observers say that this is the reason Boeing created the 737 Max, since the airplane manufacturer could self-conduct and sign off on significant steps in the approval process for its derivative.

Nonetheless, despite numerous changes over the years, the 737 is an old design. The airplane was originally manufactured close enough to the ground so that it could deploy a stairway from the aircraft: it predated jetways, which have been around for decades.

Consequently, updates to the design need to follow the original design fairly closely so they could continue to be regarded as derivatives. But it should be clear by now that current Boeing 737 derivative aircraft — modified versions of an original that was first manufactured in 1966 — no longer makes sense. It is time for Boeing to move on with more and better *current*-technology aircraft that receive thoroughgoing examinations before they are declared airworthy and safe to fly. The airline has already moved in that direction but has continued for what appear to be competitive reasons on making updates to its old 737 concept.

It is time for Boeing to put on big boy pants and move on.

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## 7. Where to Download the 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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## 8. NHC Watches, Warnings, Etc. Are Our SXM Site

Regardless of whether there are systems being watched, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) posts Tropical Outlooks and other routine posts multiple times per day. As long as the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean remain quiet, we will have few NHC posts on our site. But when the tropical Atlantic becomes active, we will be posting all significant bulletins both in the Weather Center of our main [everythingSXM.com](#) website and, later, on our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Our Weather Center on [everythingSXM.com](#) this season will include all current hurricane informational bulletins, satellite images, radar, etc. Be aware that Crown Weather Services, our long-time partner private weather forecasting organization, will be posting its exclusive content in 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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## 9. See Current SXM Weather / Tracking Serious Weather

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

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

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

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

3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see [www.island92.com](#). They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .



N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

#### **Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:**

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get.

The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

More stories are below.

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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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## **10. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals**

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.

**SkyMed Travel** offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 115% 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 there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.*

You won't be disappointed.

**Not a SkyMed member?** Learn more about it at [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks...

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

## About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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**Enjoy Our Newsletter?**

**Get ALL The Benefits!**

**Get 300+ SXM Discounts**

**& Many More Island Benefits**

**& (P. S.) Exclusive First-in-Line Invitations**

**to Our Famous Members-Only Island Parties...**

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

**New JMB memberships: 5 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$109; 1 yr., \$59**

**[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml)**

**Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$149 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$49**

**<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>**

**Reinstatement JMB memberships:**

**6 years, \$149 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$49**

**<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>**

## 11. Caravanserai T/S Owners Continue Fight Against Ray Sidhom

Caravanserai timeshare owners continue to fight the good fight against the termination of their legal timeshare property rights in SXM at the hands of Ray Sidhom, a credit card magnate from Long Island who attempted to nullify all timeshare agreements by email shortly after taking over the resort which he bought at bankruptcy.

Last week, Angie & Brian Bjornson, members of TOCA, Timeshare Owners of Caravanserai Association, the organization of timeshare owners who are fighting Sidhom, discussed their situation on Island 92 radio. You may be interested in [this recording](#) of last week's radio program.

Caravanserai has been renamed Alegria by Sidhom who has now made a number of changes to the resort and is now planning to open under yet another new name, *The Morgan*.

TOCA continues to successfully proceed with its case in Dutch courts. TOCA wants to remind visitors to Sint Maarten that the owner of the Morgan Resort has committed an injustice to the original timeshare owners of the former Caravanserai/Alegria Resort who are still deprived of the use of their legally owned timeshare units at the resort.

Here is a detailed statement concerning the current situation at Caravanserai / Alegria / The Morgan by Nancy Olds:

*I remember how ecstatic my husband Jan and I were when we signed a lease agreement for a timeshare at the Caravanserai Beach Resort in Beacon Hill and adjacent to Maho Beach in Sint Maarten. We have enjoyed many happy experiences with timeshares before for scuba vacations in the Caribbean and other memorable vacations. Our vacation moments in Sint Maarten, "The Friendly Island", were idyllic. We wanted a place that we could return*

to time and time again.

Not long after the ink was dry for possession of our timeshare in 2013, my husband and I received a disturbing email from Alegria Operations, N.V. also called Alegria Real Estate B.V., that shattered our expectations of returning to Sint Maarten and furthering our happiness with this island. The email, which reached us on September 30, 2014, stated that our legally signed timeshare ownership would be annulled. Just like that!

Fortunately we were not alone with our dismay and frustration. There were many victims. Some of the timeshare owners who owned units with the Caravanserai Beach Resort, who had enjoyed visiting their timeshare units for many delightful years, and hadn't been notified by this email warning them that their lease agreements were being revoked, attempted to return to their units only to discover that they were no longer available. RCI (Resort Condominiums International, now owned by Wyndham Destination Network and Wyndham Worldwide family of brands, a company that works with cooperating timeshares), had to scramble to find vacation lodging for the stranded timeshare owners.

Initially, the Caravanserai Beach Resort coerced some of these hapless timeshare owners to sign a hotel room usage agreement for an annual fee, thereby terminating their lease agreements. This was unacceptable with many of the timeshare owners, approximately over 2200 timeshare owners originally had signed lease agreements with the Caravanserai Beach Resort. Any such hotel usage agreement would ... eliminate all the rights and privileges of timeshare ownership!

Those timeshare owners who wanted to continue to protect their lease agreements formed TOCA, Timeshare Owners of Caravanserai Association, to take our battle to the Dutch court since Sint Maarten recognizes the legal system of the Netherlands. Dutch law does not implement a class action suit, so all of our TOCA members have used their own finances to fight this case in court. Over the years, October 2019 will be our fifth anniversary of our legal pursuit of our lease agreements ownership rights, TOCA has made several significant strides in court, winning major breakthroughs in the process. In August of 2016, The Daily Herald reported that the Sint.Maarten Court of First Instance held that Alegria Real Estate BVI, violated TOCA's timeshare rights "by canceling outright their ownership of long-term leases bought and paid for at the former Caravanserai Resort."

TOCA members are gaining traction with this case. The Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten & Bonaire, Sint Eustatius & Saba supported the lower court's findings. This means that this case is now on appeal to the Dutch Supreme Court.

In the meantime, the Caravanserai Beach Resort has gone through many physical transformations. The timeshare units were gutted and turned into hotel rooms, no longer retaining the kitchens and the square footage of the original floor plans. The name of this resort was changed to the Alegria, which means joy or happiness in Spanish, hardly an appropriate name under the circumstances for all the timeshare owners. Meanwhile, this resort remains closed as construction continues for a late fall opening under another ... new name, The Morgan. This summer, construction at the resort was halted when it was discovered that both construction contractors had hired illegal immigrants for the project.

There has been no joy or happiness for our TOCA membership, all who have been denied their rightful ownership to visit and occupy their timeshares! However, our TOCA members remain resilient and focused on finally achieving our goals for full compensation with our major day in court! TOCA is not only fighting for our day of justice, but the whole island of Sint Maarten and St. Martin (the French side) is monitoring these events, which could have a significant impact on how this island continues to do business with its tourism industry. Anyone visiting "The Friendly Island" should take note as to the type of resorts that continually treat their guests and timeshare owners with the utmost respect that they deserve. Reputations are built and endure when timeshare lease agreements are honored. TOCA members have a commitment to stand firm with their rightful dispute against the Caravanserai/Alegria/ The Morgan resort until justice prevails.

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## 12. At Ocean Club, It's Rumors, Not Real News from Owners

As visitors to SXM who pass through the Cupecoy area well know, what's left of Ocean Club resort still stands there like a badly wrecked ghost town.

It appears that some owners of some of the units on the property have attempted to fix them somewhat, but most simply sit there, making the place look like the setting of a horror movie.

According to timeshare owners, they have heard precious little from resort owner Eric Loor, who we are told has a home on SXM. Not long after Irma struck, timeshare owners were offered visits to other properties but they say they have never been told what is going to happen to their timeshares.

If the resort is not going to be rebuilt, Mr. Loor ought to compensate timeshare owners with their share of the value

of their property while, most likely, declaring a *force majeure*. The force majeure, notable for its appearance in most timeshare contracts, enables the resort to cancel the contracts when something like Irma destroys their ability to rebuild it. He has not done that, timeshare owners say, leaving them in the dark about the future of the resort in which they have invested heavily.

SXM has no timeshare owner consumer protection legislation similar to that which is expected in the United States. There is nothing telling timeshare developers what is legally required of them in a number of circumstances that can typically happen in the timeshare business in the tropics -- and, critically important, nothing protecting timeshare owners.

Interestingly, most timeshare owners at most resorts on the island are very happy with their resorts — with few exceptions. Simpson Bay Resort, Divi Little Bay Resort, Belair Beach Hotel, Oyster Bay Beach Resort, Atrium, La Vista, Flamingo, Royal Palm, and even Sapphire beach are all loaded with satisfied timeshare owners. Most timeshare owners, in fact, understand when the timeshares must impose supplemental maintenance fees (SMFs) to make major changes, most of them in response to upgrade requests from timeshare owners.

But in the case of Ocean Club, there have been rumors of a bankruptcy, and assorted other rumors but no real communications from Mr. Looor to his timeshare owners, they tell us. If true, that is a really good example of a disrespectful way to regard people who have been supporting your business for many years and it should not be allowed by the island government.

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## 13. Towers at Mullet Bay Rooms In Use - But Not by T/S Owners

The Towers at Mullet Bay situation is yet another hot mess that has not been attended to by the island government or any caretaker government.

There, timeshare owners have been deprived of their units ever since Irma hit the island more than two years ago. There is a big financial conundrum caused by the financial situation of an insurance company which is apparently owned by the same individual who owns Mullet Bay Towers.

The story at the time the courts instituted the current situation, greatly simplified, was that Mullet Bay Towers couldn't commit money to completing resort repairs and allow timeshare owners to use their rooms until the financial mess of its owners was corrected.

Timeshare owners allege that the Towers at Mullet Bay is renting out units to various individuals but not to legitimate timeshare owners. They also say that there have not been any definitive communications from the ownership to timeshare owners telling them exactly what is going on and when it will be fixed so they can take advantage of the investments they have made in the resort *as their contracts promise*.

Here again, timeshare owners are looking for the government to intervene on their behalf and the government has not responded. Hopefully once a new government is formed and takes office, it will pay attention to timeshare owner rights since T/S owners are a pivotal part of the entire island's economy.

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## 14. Hundreds of 2019, 2020 T/S Condo Rentals Available Online

If you're looking to rent an SXM timeshare condominium directly from its owners for your use during an upcoming 2019 or 2020 trip to SXM, go to our main SXM website at [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) and click on the timeshare rentals page. You'll find hundreds of ads and you'll be able to deal directly with the people who own the timeshares. If you have SXM friends who are also looking for accommodations, don't hesitate to mention our page to them, which also has links to additional sources of rentals plus villa rentals and more.

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## 15. Original 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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## 16. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick

With most timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, La Vista, Simpson Bay Resort, Port de Plaisance, and Oyster Bay Beach now open too -- timeshare owners continue to post units available for rent on our [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 are are very frequently updated.

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## 17. A Place Where SXM Timeshare Owners Can Talk

JMB Communications has long operated a St. Maarten timesharing site on Facebook. We have now combined that site with our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) since more timeshare owners from St. Maarten belong to the latter site than the former.

In the [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) lots of current information about timeshare resorts is being exchanged by timeshare owners. We welcome you to join that site and share your experiences with other timeshare owners.

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## 18. Rented/Sold Your Timeshare? Please Cancel Your Ad

Owners of timeshares from St. Maarten and the rest of the world who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program can post timeshare weeks they own for rent or for sale on our main SXM site, [everythingSXM.com](#), which has had over 6 million visits and continues to be enormously popular. We do urge timeshare owners to let us know at once when their weeks have been rented or sold. That way, we can remove expired ads on a timely basis — usually weekly during high season.

Members of JMB Website Supporters can post or cancel ads using our members-only secret website, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](#). Your assigned username and password are required for secret site access. Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you don't recall your password, use the forgot password link in the orange login box below the masthead on every page of [everythingSXM.com](#) for site access.

Updates to our listings are done weekly during high season.

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### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

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## 19. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updates Coming

Jeff returns to the island during November and will be working in November and December to further increase the

already significant number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, and other businesses offering discounts or other incentives to members of our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program.

As these additions are made, they will be reported here in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

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

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

**20. About *The New York Times* Recent Article Re: SXM**

*The New York Times* has always been one of the nation's finest newspapers. It is highly regarded around the world.

When it published an extensive article last week about St. Maarten after the hurricane we expected an upbeat tribute to the tenacity of island residents in the face of a terrible disaster. Instead, the *Times* chose to focus on the negatives — the severity of the damage Irma inflicted more than two years ago, and the fact that recovery on the French side has been significantly slower than on the Dutch and that a fair amount of hidden damage remains.

SXM has, in fact, made a stunning recovery from the most powerful hurricane in Atlantic basin history. Philipsburg is humming as always, the beaches are pristine and beautiful, hundreds of restaurants offer incredible dining every night, and the bargains on Front Street are as great as ever: SXM *has* made a beautiful recovery.

Here is a link to the *Times* [article](#) for those interested in reading it. We feel the orientation of the article is off kilter and doesn't do justice to the island's recovery. Bottom line: SXM is back and ready to welcome you with an incredible vacation and truly amazing people.

**21. From GEBE, More Excuses**

GEBE, the Dutch side's electricity and water company, still hasn't figured out how to operate their business without frequently turning the lights off. They have promised recent improvements but we shouldn't expect to start to see any results of those improvements or implementation for another couple of years.

In the meantime, it would make sense for them to keep an ample supply of spare parts on hand — which, apparently, they still don't do, which is why the lights still go out. If you're staying in a big timeshare resort, you're lucky: most have backup generators that enable them to keep the lights on despite GEBE's problems.

Here's the [latest story](#) about what's going on with GEBE.

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



**Enjoy Our Newsletter?**

**Get ALL The Benefits!**



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

**New JMB memberships: 5 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$109; 1 yr., \$59**

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

**Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$149 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$49**

**<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>**

**Reinstatement JMB memberships:**

**6 years, \$149 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$49**

**<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>**

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## **22. Water Main Break in Grand Case: Short-Lived Geyser**

There was something of a geyser near the roundabout in Anse Marcel, the one that enables people to drive to the Pinel island ferry. The geyser was caused by a water main break which, on the French side, was solved fairly quickly.

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## **23. Update on the Status of French Side Water**

Because of desalinization issues limited to the French side, the government there has restricted the use of tapwater since last spring. It has been slowly reinstituting some allowable uses of water in the interim, and says it now expects full use of tapwater to resume before Christmas.

Although we will be publishing future developments concerning French side water here in *SXM Weekly News*, those who will be visiting the island between now and Christmas should also see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) which will publish the exact date when full use of French side tapwater will resume as soon as it is announced.

There are no current restrictions on the use of Dutch side water, which is an entirely different desalinization system. Many people still prefer bottled water for drinking.

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## **24. Membership Processing Update**

Our recent (starting September 10) beat the price increase promotion for membership in our JMB Website Supporters SXM island discount program generated a slew of requests for new memberships, renewals, and reinstatements. As of Sunday, we are close to finishing requests which were made during September, and are quickly moving to fulfill requests made this month. It will still be roughly another week before we are fully caught up.

We thank all current and future members for their patience. Each payment transaction is generally processed the same day, but enrollments, reinstatements, and renewals are all hand-processed in order of receipt. Again, we thank all of our 33,000 plus members for their patience — with so many people returning to the island this winter we are fulfilling your membership requests just as quickly as we can.

## 25. Another Reason to Get Your Flu Shot

There is not usually a flu epidemic in SXM, though some seasonal illnesses do happen.

Realizing that probably 2 million people will come to SXM in the next year — the bulk of them in the cold weather months — makes it inevitable that some of them will travel while infected with flu. If you have not been immunized, you are susceptible to becoming infected by this year's flu strains, which are expected to be much more severe than in the past (following on what happened during the recent winter in Australia). If you have not yet had your flu shot please be sure to get it well before you come to SXM to prevent yourself from being infected and eliminate the possibility of you infecting others. Special high potency shots are available and recommended for seniors.

## 26. Restaurant of the Week: iZi Ristorante Italiano

Years ago, he was in charge of culinary aboard one of Royal Caribbean's largest ships. His ship repeatedly visited St. Maarten, and he fell in love with the island. He settled on SXM and in the 1990s and quickly opened up a little pasta manufacturing company in the Sandy Ground area, just west of downtown Marigot; it was called La Raviolina.

He was selling his delicious homemade pasta to many of the Dutch side's busiest restaurants but ultimately decided he wanted to open his own little restaurant and did so in the front of La Raviolina, calling it La Gondola. There were times when David Foini was chief pasta maker, chef, sole server, and escort back to the parking lot after people dined at his little restaurant. As he brought in talented chefs, he was able to spend more time tending to the needs of his guests and trying to fit in everyone who wanted to taste his wonderful pasta.

Eventually, he decided to create a new, more upscale La Gondola in the old Atlantis casino in Cupecoy, where his business was a spectacular success, visited by show business top stars and occasional billionaires from nearby megayachts. He stayed there for years during which he quickly stopped manufacturing pasta for wholesale distribution: there weren't enough hours in the day to do that and run his highly successful restaurant.

As the recession began more than 12 years ago, David thought it was time to create an entirely new concept in Simpson Bay. He decided to call it Izi, pronounced easy, which at the time he described as a nonsense word that people would easily remember.

IZi's upbeat atmosphere and couples-friendly ambience have made it one of SXM's most successful Italian restaurants, where lunch and dinner are served daily (closed Mondays) and when the restaurant stays busy year-round. IZi has also won many Everything St. Maarten Awards of Excellence, top awards from TripAdvisor, and last year was voted SXM's #1 Italian Restaurant.

After its traditional fall closing, iZi reopened just a couple of weeks ago and is totally ready to serve you during your next trip to the island. For much more information, click their link at the top of the list below of recent restaurants honored to be called "restaurant of the week" here in *SXM Weekly News*. It's a great restaurant which we visit many times while we're on the island.

**Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:**

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://www.izirestaurant.com) (featured 10/14/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

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

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

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

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnataverna.com](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.

## 27. Where Are They Now?

*This is the first in a series of articles about where the people are who served you in the past at extremely popular SXM restaurants. If you've been going to SXM for any length of time — or, in fact, if you're an ex-pat now living there — you will find interesting information here. Since they moved on from their original restaurants, many SXM restaurateurs and restaurant employees have stayed in the business on the island. You may not know it, but we'll tell you where some of them are and where you can get those recipes you thought you'd never taste again.*

**Turtle Pier** was one of SXM's most while wildly popular restaurants of the 1990s. Originally loved for their fried zucchini, they came to be renowned for delicious homemade breakfasts, very filling lunches, and legendary dinners especially on "Lobster Night," when full-course lobster dinners were discounted.

We loved the place, and talked about it extensively here in *SXM Weekly News* more than 20 years ago. Despite the fact that it had many seats, the restaurant was often filled to overflowing with a line out the door: word-of-mouth, which we helped spread, filled the place.

Eventually Turtle Pier owner Al Wathey realized that his kids were forgetting what he looked like because of crazy hours involved in running a major restaurant open for three meals a day every day. Today, the property has been leveled in anticipation of upcoming growth at SXM Airport.

But there's a lot of news related to the Wathey family and its involvement in culinary activities on the island.

Al's daughter Lillian owns and runs Jorney Burger at SXM Airport, which has many different and delicious custom-tailored burgers sold on delicious Johnny cakes, an island tradition. I had the good fortune to taste test many of them years ago when the restaurant was first starting.

Lillian is also chief honcho at Nowhere Special, the relatively new restaurant located just south of the Dutch side drawbridge. Al Wathey is often seen at this restaurant — which notably serves many entrées formerly served at Turtle Pier, including some of the lobster dishes — and their top Chef was top chef at — wait for it — Turtle Pier.

Just like Turtle Pier, the place looks like "nowhere special" from the street side, but once you get in back where the

waterfront seating is it's very attractive — and very busy. When you call them, tell them that the Bergers recommended you visit — and say hello to Al and Lillian while you're there.

**Featured so far in this series:** Al & Lillian Wathey, Turtle Pier / Nowhere Special.

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## 28. Last Call Ever for Our Green-Palms SXM Euro Oval

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.

***Orders can not be accepted after October 15, 2019 -- ordering will resume in April for our new SXM beach chair Euro Ovals, printed in purple. This is your last shot at our green ovals.***

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## 29. Please Help Stop the Scourge of Brain Tumors...

*Jeff Berger writes:*

Our son Scott Berger has had two brain tumors. He's married with two kids and understandably his passion and ours is supporting the efforts of the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) in finding the cause of brain tumors, improving diagnostic tools, advancing treatment modalities, patient care, and more.

Scott in a few weeks will once again be active in the Brain Tumor Walk where he lives, in the Phoenix area. Please see more in [his post for the NBTS](#) and please help in any way you can. Every family affected by brain tumors will thank you - us especially! -*Jeff & Ilene*

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## 30. Your Invitation: SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon 1/3

Starting in November, SkyMed members (read on even if you're not) will be receiving invitations by mail from SkyMed's headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona, inviting them to come to our [SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon in Simpson Bay, St. Maarten, on January 3](#). The menu is fantastic, not at all surprising since SkyMed takes great care of its members. On hand will be Eleanore and Will Klein, Chairman/CEO and President of SkyMed respectively. Jeff Berger, long-time SkyMed Ambassador, will also be on hand.

**Save the date.** Not too long after formal invitations go out, we'll be inviting other St. Maarten / St. Martin visitors from the USA and Canada (as well as American and Canadian XPats) to join us as well. SkyMed is handling all arrangements. SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling -- and not just to SXM. See [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb) for more SkyMed info and call Jeff directly for answers to questions or to sign up by phone (that way we get credit). *Nothing else is SkyMed.*

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## 31. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It has now been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is being added just hours after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes.

## 32. 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.

## 33. 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.

## 34. Going Somewhere 1/14or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion of 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 guaranteed renewable annual or multiyear protection now at only about \$1.35/day, pre-existing conditions will be covered in full after a brief 90-day waiting period. SkyMed protects you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection 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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***A woman from Virginia*** shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

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

***A member of the clergy*** fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases.** *SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.* That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

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

**Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere.** Do it today. To learn more, visit [www.skymed.com/jmb](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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## 36. Are You Military?

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

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

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

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

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

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## 38. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 10/14)

### AMUSEMENTS

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

### BOAT TOURS

Celine Charters (Enigma)

### CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[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)

**Sunshine Properties** (new)

### **RESORTS:**

**Belair Beach Hotel**

**Simpson Bay Resort**

**Azure Hotel & Art Studio**

**Baker's Suites**

### **RESTAURANTS & BARS**

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

**ISOLA**

**Frenchy Ludo's**

**SNOOPY'S**

**Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)**

**Melange (Port de Plaisance)**

**Pelican Bistro**

**Soggy Dollar Bar**

**Sale and Pepe**

**LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)**

**MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)**

**Pineapple Pete Restaurant**

**Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant**

**Emilio's (NEW)**

**Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar (NEW)**

**Nowhere Special (NEW)**

#### **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](#).

**Sunshine Properties** has just joined us.

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

**Bright Path** is already posting on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

Updated 10/14/19

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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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## 39. 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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) .

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

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

## SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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](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)

10/14/19 #V2-1219 10/13/19 3:00 pm EDT

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