

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/2/19: Airport Rebuilding Update; Westin Update; 2020 Hurricane Names; Diamond Resorts Issues; Destination Magazine (AA, UA); Fare Prices; Bridge Uncovered; Cyber Monday Is Right Here [38 SXM News Stories]

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**Vol. 2, #1226 --- Monday, December 2, 2019**  
**News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



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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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**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.**

***Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 334,000 people around the world...***

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

[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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Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in

**TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:**

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

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**--Traveling Anywhere In March or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now**  
 #####

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 ---- \*\*\*\*\***Customer Stories**\*\*\*\*\*  
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**38 News Stories This Week**

**Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents**

**Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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:**

**Not in archives.**

**SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

**Not in archives.**

**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\***  
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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. Hurricane Season Ends; 2020 Hurricane Names

Featuring 18 named storms — far above the usual 12, the 2019 hurricane season finally ended on November 30. Although SXM was spared any significant storm interaction this year, Great Abaco and Grand Bahama islands both endured the wrath of hurricane Dorian, which caused billions of dollars of damage there and took many lives.

The 2020 hurricane season begins in six months on June 1, 2020. During the forthcoming season the following storm names will be available for use: Arthur Bertha Cristobal Dolly Edouard Fay Gibzaki Hanna Isaias Josephine Kyle Laura Marco Nana Omar Paulette Rene Sally Teddy Vicky Wilfred.

Preliminary forecasts for the 2020 season are expected to be issued some time in January and will appear here in *SXM Weekly News*.

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### 1a. Strong Northerly Swells Hit Coast

Strong Northerly swells, apparently generated by fronts exiting the US East Coast, have been affecting the Northern Leeward islands this weekend with high surf.

The most notable impact -- as usual -- has been on Beacon Hill Road, the two-lane road that fronts Maho beach at the ocean end of the SXM Airport runway. There, high surf on Sunday pushed plowable amounts of beach sand onto the road, at times closing the ocean side of the road to traffic or, for the foolhardy, capturing cars driven in beach sand mud. Helpful people dug them out several times Sunday and at times police directed traffic on the one lane of the road that was usually passable.

Otherwise skies were partly cloudy to cloud free and the temp was in the 80s, normal here this time of year.

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## 2. AA Adding WiFi to Some Aging 757s

Thanks to the grounding of all 737 Max aircraft worldwide, American Airlines has been keeping some aging aircraft in the sky for longer than would otherwise be the case.

Included in its current fleet are dozens of aging Boeing 757 aircraft. Though highly dependable, these planes are long in the tooth and don't feature some of the things passengers have come to expect on the current crop of airliners -- for example, some of them -- please sit down so you don't faint -- are you ready? -- don't have Wi-Fi.

American has said that it is going to outfit these aircraft — a minority of its 757 fleet — with Wi-Fi in the near term, though we haven't heard specific dates.

That's good news for many connected passengers. Hopefully, permanent fixes will soon be 100% proven for the 737 Max, which may be able to redeploy -- finally fixed -- to global fleets before next Summer.

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## 3. Two AA 757s Overnight at SXM Airport

After Thanksgiving, two American Airlines 757 aircraft remained parked near the Princess Juliana SXM Airport terminal, where they remained much of the following day. One was still there on Saturday morning before this story was written.

There were fairly high winds causing some flight disruptions in the US on both Thursday and Friday, though we were unable to find out why the two 757s had remained in SXM. One of them had taken off by Saturday afternoon.

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## 4. Airport Loans To Be Signed "In The Coming Weeks"

Dutifully running a press release from a unit of the Dutch side government, the *SXM Daily Herald* last week reported that officials were saying that the loan documents giving SXM Airport that badly needed restoration funding of USD\$120-million would be signed in the "coming days" -- seemingly good news even though "coming days" was not defined.

*Curb your enthusiasm, folks.* Last week, other government officials said that release was a mistake, and the loan papers would be signed in the coming *weeks*, not days.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands helped put together this offer last February, when the island government had its initial opportunity to sign it and get the money. It didn't. Despite a great deal of jawboning and prodding by the Kingdom, the Dutch side government still hasn't done the deed. In fact, as we reported here, a few months ago the current Dutch side government fell for the ninth or tenth time since SXM became Country St. Maarten on 10/10/10; it's easy to lose count.

We'll resist the strong temptation to make comments -- except this: SXM Airport is at the heart of the island's economy, and anything that delays its complete restoration damages that economy. One would hope that the politicians in charge would get the message and do their jobs *in hours*, not days or weeks.

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## 5. 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.

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)**

## **6. 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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See additional Airline Stories in our main NEWS section, Section IV.

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

## **7. Diamond Resorts Further Angers SXM Timeshare Owners**

When we saw a huge ad in the *SXM Daily Herald* for skilled labor to work on the infrastructure of both SXM Diamond Resorts — electricians, plumbers, and many others to do work which many people had assumed was already done — we were surprised, to say the least, since Diamond has said that it expects the resorts to reopen toward the middle of next year.

So, we photographed the ads and published them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) with this comment: *If Diamond Royal Palm and Flamingo Resorts -- 27 months after Irma struck -- are as far along rebuilding their properties as they seem to want people to believe, then why are they advertising now for people to work on critical infrastructure in both buildings? If you're a Diamond Resorts SXM timeshare owner, how to you react to these 27-*



*months-after-the-fact help wanted ads that were in today's (11/29/19) SXM Daily Herald?*

Without exception, all of the responding comments were critical or highly critical of Diamond Resorts. It is now 27 months since Irma struck, and Diamond Resorts is just now advertising for skilled craftspeople for plumbing, electrical, and other essential infrastructure work in its timeshare buildings?

Please see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) for a close look at reader opinions on Diamond Resorts....

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## **8. Plenty of Condo Rentals, Villa Rentals Available on SXM**

Many Timeshare owners at both Flamingo resort and Royal Palm beach resort, the diamond resorts referred to in the previous story, in the last couple of years have made arrangements to stay at nearby Simpson Bay resort. Though Simpson Bay lost some buildings during hurricane Irma, it quickly completed renovations throughout the property and never closed after the hurricane.

The reactions of Flamingo and Royal palm owners to Simpson Bay have been very positive — and in fact a number of renters from those diamond properties say they have walked away from diamond and signed up with units at Simpson Bay.

If you are looking for timeshare condos to rent for future SXM island vacations, please see our main SXM website, [everythingSXM.com](#). It contains hundreds of rentals for 2020 as well as dozens of units for sale on the island. 2021 rentals will begin to appear on the site early in March, 2020. Our high-quality sponsors/partners offering villa rentals across the island also have a variety of properties to offer you. Here they are. We have also listed three hotel properties below that have rooms available for future stays in all seasons.

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## **9. A Very Unique Dec-Jan Rental Opportunity at Belair...**

We wanted to make you aware of the very unexpected availability of a large chunk of Winter weeks during December and January that are now available at Belair Beach Hotel.

Here are the details:

Special opportunity December 2019 and January 2020 Two Bedroom, Two Bathroom, Second Floor, Belair Beach Hotel unit available for December 2019 and January 2020. This is the first time this unit has been available during this timeframe in many years. Once in a lifetime opportunity. Weekly Rate: \$1710, plus any applicable taxes; Special Monthly Rates available upon request. Email: [info@island92.com](mailto:info@island92.com) to inquire.

Want to get away with family or friends for an extended vacation? This is your chance to do exactly that.

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## **10. Want to Rent Out Or Sell Timeshare Units You Own?**

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main [everythingSXM.com](#) website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, [everythingSXM.com](#) and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there. For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of [everythingSXM.com](#). As a member, you will have access to a growing pallet of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at [everythingSXM.com](#).

The ability to post timeshare rentals on our site is limited to JMB Website Supporters members only, and is not available to any others at any price.

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## **11. SXM Relocation Seminar Is Available Online, Free**

Just before Thanksgiving 2018, 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 '18 seminar is 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](#).

**Please check this link to [BrightPath in SXM](#)**, 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, or relocating there. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side. Ask for Vivian Chamas and let her know you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

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

## **12. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updates Underway**

Jeff will be working in December & January to further increase the already huge 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](#).**

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

## **Don't Miss Our Cyber Monday / Holiday JMB Membership Sale NOW UNDERWAY**

Our biggest sale of the year for our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program is now underway. Both new and renewal pricing are the lowest of the year.

Make sure your new JMB membership or your renewal/reinstatement is in force well ahead of your next visit to the island: do it today. Sale pricing is shown below.



**Holiday Membership Sale ---**  
**Our Biggest of the Year --**

**NOW UNDERWAY!**

**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>

## **13. Heavy Demand for Winter Weekend Flights = Higher Fares**

There is bad news and good news concerning winter flights to SXM.

Actually, good news, bad news, and more good news. The first good news is that demand is very high for winter flights and so, we are hearing, are the numbers of advance reservations for the winter. It should be the best winter SXM has experienced in years, as we've been reporting here for the last few months.

The bad news is that as a result of this high demand, some airfares are unusually high — which leads us to more good news.

Many people planning vacations in SXM are finding that by flying down during the week — and not during crazy busy weekends — they are saving enough money to be able to more than pay for a few extra nights of accommodations at other resorts.. A list of some resorts with this is happening was published above in story X.

If you haven't already nailed down your winter fares, this idea lets you leverage low weekday fares and get more days on SXM as part of the bargain.

## **14. On UA, AA Flights, '20 Destination Magazine Warrants Reading**

Both American Airlines and United Airlines offer passengers headed for SXM a copy of *Destination St. Martin* magazine, an eye-opening look at island attractions through the seasoned eye of an editor who lives on the island and several freelance writers.

One of those freelance / travel writers is Jeff Berger, who also publishes *SXM Weekly News*, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com), his [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), and who recently visited, researched, and wrote the entire St. Maarten, St. Martin, Statia, Anguilla, and St. Barth sections of the all-new 2020 *Fodor's Essential Caribbean directory*, the 2020 version of which has just been published and is at leading bookstores, both online and bricks and mortar.

The *Destination* article takes a close look at medical evacuation services and offers some criteria for travelers to

consider in selecting the best programs.

You'll find many other articles of interest in the new 2020 *Destination* magazine and we urge you to take a close look at it during your next trip to SXM on AA or UA.

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## 15. At Toppers, 48 Turkeys and 400 Dinners Highlight Thanksgiving

Perhaps the single best known headquarters for Thanksgiving feasts every year on SXM is Toppers popular restaurant in Simpson Bay.

Interviewed just after Thanksgiving, Topper told us that from Tuesday through Thanksgiving day, his kitchen staff roasted 48 butterball Turkeys; went through more than 100 pounds of fresh potatoes to make Toppers own mashed potatoes; used almost the same quantity of fresh vegetables, cooked to be served with all turkey dinners; plus 40 pies, 20 pecan and 20 pumpkin, plus dozens of Toppers Rhum Distillery Rhum Cakes when the 40 pies actually ran out on Thursday night. Toppers ran out of veggies and had to stop serving at around 9 o'clock Thanksgiving night.

The small amount of turkey that was left over was served as open faced turkey sandwiches during the day on Friday. And no, it probably isn't too early to make your 2020 Thanksgiving reservations at Toppers although they plan to start actually accepting reservations next September -- so put it on your 2020 calendar now.

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## 16. For 36 Pelicans, a Thanksgiving Feast in Burgeaux Bay

While humans were feasting on turkey dinners and other delicious alternatives on Thanksgiving, over in Burgeaux Bay not far from the airport dozens of Pelicans, brown boobies, and terns, were feasting on a big school of fish that had decided to visit the Bay for a couple of days; it was something to behold, and many people who saw it dutifully recorded it with video and still photography.

"With lots of three different breeds of birds all flying around looking at the water, it was a marvel of nature that none of them crashed into each other," one photographer told us. By Saturday, the fish had moved on and so had the Pelicans, boobies, and terns.

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## 17. Westin Renovations Accelerate as Dawn Beach Club Finishes

A Dawn Beach Club social media site, focused on the needs of Dawn Beach Club timeshare owners and on the Westin St. Maarten resort and casino, published this letter last week from a DBC timeshare owner. It was forwarded to us by another DBC owner:

From the horses mouth: We talked to the sales office and management located at DBC this morning, as we are on island. Take all of this for what it's worth, but I thought I would at least let all the other owners here know what they told us:

- The hotel: A few important points on the hotel:
  - They are currently working like mad to open up both of the two restaurants, Ocean and the steak house, which they would like to have open in early 2020. They are shooting for January, but it might be a bit later than that.
  - They are also working to open the casino around the same time.
  - There are roughly 10 hotel rooms which have been renovated at this point, and there are a number of staff staying in rooms near where the old DBC sales office was. Some of the rooms facing the old courtyard have been livable, and hotel and DBC staff have moved in there while they get their own homes sorted out. (I thought this was very good, and happy to hear ownership was helping at least some of the staff.) They have not started work on the other rooms in the hotel as of yet.

- The DBC sales office is in the hotel building. If you are looking at the hotel from the beach, it is a good bit of the left side of the "U" leading up to the ocean. The sales office itself is the end near the ocean, and the offices run down the corridor. I think those used to be hotel rooms, I can't remember.
- The hotel and DBC are owned by the same developer.
- DBC and the hotel are on one plot of land, and due to government regulations, both have to be owned by the same group and the hotel has to be a 4 or 5 star designation because that was what was originally licensed.
- ***They do not know the name-plate of the hotel, or when the rest of the hotel will open, but we asked directly if there was any plans for March 2020, and they said absolutely not. However they did indicate it was most likely going to be a "slow roll-out" of different hotel amenities, starting with the restaurants and casino, then maybe some rooms in the wing closest to DBC, and working around. Insurance is apparently giving them money in chunks, not enough to do the whole project. What they said is once they get all of the DBC buildings open, and the restaurants and casino open, they will put together more plans and go to the insurance company with plans for the next phase.***
- There was a rumor running around they are going to bulldoze the entire hotel and start over. That seems to not be the case since they are actively renovating the restaurants, and hope to have them open in a couple of months.
- They have ordered hooks and towel bars for the rooms, they heard that complaint and they are apparently on a ship or something heading this way
- We told them (again) that one of the major frustrations the owners had is the elevator from the ground floor to the garage level of building D is busted, and seems to have been busted for a while, and that is a very common complaint. I have a tin-foil hat conspiracy theory they don't want to fix that elevator because a large part of the sales pitch is trying to get people to buy fixed weeks in other buildings because Building D has a lot of stairs. That could be just me being overly cynical (and in sales so I've seen these tactics before). But they said they were going to report it and look at it. So hopefully it gets fixed.
- We also told them the lack of a bath tub was really hard for families with small children to bathe the small kids. Our 6 year old can take a shower, the 9 month old clearly cannot. We suggested they invest in temporary plastic tubs for families to request, like they do cribs and high-chairs.
- They did try and get us to exchange our float week for a fixed week, and we turned them down. There was some discussion of points, but again, we turned that down. They claim they are getting close to capacity, and I politely told them I had been hearing that since 2011, and hadn't had a difficult time scheduling my float week yet. So, who knows.
- The sales staff did stop by our room almost every day to get us to schedule an appointment. However, they typically brought a bottle of (what my wife says) is pretty good champagne. So, we didn't mind that so much. And we wanted to talk to them about the hotel anyway, so we were not put out by the "intrusion."

Overall, we had a really good conversation, though a bit long, with them, and they were not pushy at all. Clearly they have a job to do, and we very much respect that...

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## 18. Blvd. de Grand Case Repaving Way Overdue

In December '18 or early January of 2019, the French side government announced it was doing utility work in Grand Case, focused on Boulevard de Grand Case, and that the Boulevard would be repaved before Mardis de Grand Case began a bit later last winter.

Perhaps we misunderstood, but we foolishly assumed that they were talking about *that year* — the winter of 2019. Although there have been no further announcements that we know of, Boulevard de Grand Case remains a rather rutted mess. Some in the hospitality industry on the French side and on the Dutch side are crediting it as a fitting tribute to the French side government's lack of focus on the needs of hospitality businesses, which are central to the economic vitality of the entire island.

Many restaurants in the dining mecca of Grand Case are open, of course, and welcoming thousands of visitors each month. But it would certainly be helpful if the government there did what it said it's going to do and paved Grand Case's main road.

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## 19. 70+ Year-Old Simpson Bay Bridge Uncovered off Billy Folly Rd.

A few weeks ago, a billionaire with significant investments on SXM bought a tract of land between Burger King and atrium as well as beachfront property behind Toppers restaurant and other businesses in the area.

Once the sale was done, the new owner had the area cleared of brush, which had obscured its contents for decades — although many islanders knew what was there.

Often featured in vintage photography of Simpson Bay, the 70-year-old Simpson Bay Bridge, far predating the current drawbridge, has been there all along. We spent some time shooting pictures of it once the cleanup was completed, and we posted them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). You can see them there.

In our comments, we said that we hoped that whatever the developer was doing respected the historical significance of the bridge and kept it intact. We have many political figures and other notable people from Dutch and French St. Martin who are members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), one of whom is Rolando Brison, currently a Dutch side candidate for office, who responded with this comment: *The bridge is protected as a monument under our current laws. So the owners [are] highly restricted in what ways [they] can build on or around that area.*

Jay Havisier, the island's resident Archaeologist, added this information about the life of this 70-year-old historical landmark: *First wooden bridge at this location was 1933, this stone bridge is from 1950, later the lagoon waterfeed was filled and a concrete road built across in 1966.*

We appreciate their participation and invite you to join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) if you haven't already; it will enable you to see many interesting posts about SXM around-the-clock every day.

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## 20. Vintage SXM Pictures Posted on New Photo Website

If you enjoy seeing vintage SXM photography, often posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), you should take a look at a new site focused on sharing just such photography. You can even add pictures of your own to this group: <http://image.amuseumnaturalis.com/>

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## 21. Christmas in SXM Has Everything But Snow & Cold...

As the Jimmy Buffett song says, [Christmas in the Caribbean](#) has everything but snow; you can hear his song by clicking our link.

There's plenty of evidence to support this, including multiple air-conditioned containers at various stores including Cost-u-Less selling fully wrapped fresh Christmas trees, leaving on the roofs of cars just like they do at home, dozens every day.

Besides which, **Christmas in the Caribbean** does feature everything but snow — and right now, that would be a nice thing for everyone who reads *SXM Weekly News*.

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## 22. Food and Toy Drive Underway

The **2019 Annual Christmas Charity Food & Toy Drive** is now underway to help those less fortunate in St. Maarten. Donations accepted at Simpson Bay Resort Members Services office next to Hollywood Casino. Cash, non-perishables, toys....all donations gratefully accepted. (via Rose Blackwell)

## 23. Get SkyMed Now For All Upcoming Trips: Member Stories

**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.](#)

**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.

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## 24. Where Are They Now? L'Alabama

*This is the 7th 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 right here. Since they moved on from their original restaurants, many SXM restaurateurs and restaurant employees have stayed in the business on the island. In this series, we'll tell you where some of them are and where you can get those recipes you thought you'd never taste again.*

**For years, Karin Mikitz and Pascal Potin ran SXM's enormously popular L'Alabama Restaurant where La Villa is currently located in Grand Case.** It was widely regarded as the island's top restaurant and was consistently booked full every night.

Karin and Pascal were business partners who ultimately went their separate ways. Karin returned to her native Austria and Pascal spent time in Cuba, then Paris, and we believe he has now returned to Cuba. Their dining experience is remembered by their thousands of SXM customers to this day....

**If you have suggestions for future articles, please email them to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject where are they now.**

**Featured so far in this series:**

Daniel Jurczenko **Busby's, Daniel's by the Sea** (coming soon)  
Karin Mikitz and Pascal Potin, **L'Alabama** (article #7)  
Mario Tardiff, **Mario's Bistro, Marigot on the Channel** (article #6)  
Vesna **Sunshine Cafe** and Yannick **Fish Pot** (article #5)  
Livio Bergamasco / **Da Livio** (article #4)  
Gray & Jason & "Lulu" / **Busby's / Daniel's** (article #3)  
David Foini, **La Raviolina / La Gondola** / iZi (article #2)  
Al & Lillian Wathey, **Turtle Pier / Nowhere Special** (article #1)

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

David Foini has been a culinary legend in SXM for decades. His current restaurant, iZi, in Simpson Bay opposite Pineapple Pete, offers a wide range of Italian fine dining at moderate prices -- with specials that are amazing. His Branzino -- Mediterranean seabass -- is terrific, and his Tasting menu (advance reservations required) is an absolute must. IZI is one of our long-time favorite restaurants, and you'll find us there often when we're on SXM.

They've been rated #1 Dutch Side Italian restaurant in Trip Advisor for a long time. Go, and you'll quickly learn why. They're flat out extraordinary....

**Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:**

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://www.izirestaurant.com) (featured 12/2/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

**Mario Bistro** [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/) 11/26/19 Mario's Bistro is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

**Spiga**, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 11/18/19) New bar, great staff, service, and phenomenal food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

**Mama Pizza**, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/11/19) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 10/28/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Wednesday through Sunday.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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## 26. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Regardless of what time it is, people are always interacting with our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — asking questions, answering questions, getting answers or suggestions or recommendations from other people, posting thousands of pictures, etc.

With almost 24,000 participating members (more than twice that including their partners and friends), there's just about always a number of people around to answer any question or to offer recommendations. *You will also find some of the best businesses on the island occasionally posting information about what they offer, too — jewelers, car rentals, points of accommodation, restaurants, pharmacists, swimsuit retailers, and others.* The best place to get your questions answered quickly is our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) -- check it out.

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

If you are either a SkyMed member or are interested in learning more about SkyMed, the medical evacuation

membership company we've been recommending since 2001, you are invited to our first SKYMED MEMBER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON in SXM on January 3. [Please see details here](#); registration is required.

Bring friends who should also hear this information, but ALL must be preregistered. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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## 29. 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 recently been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added just hours after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

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## 30. 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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## 31. 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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## 32. Going Somewhere? 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.

### **33. \*\*\*\*\*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.

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**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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## **34. 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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## **35. 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.

## 36. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 12/2)

### **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)**

## **SWIMWEAR:**

**Endless Summer Swimwear, Philipsburg & Simpson Bay**

## **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).

### **GoBeach Vacations**

**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 12/2/19

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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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## **37. 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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