

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/20/20: Weather News; Airport \$; Four Hotel Projects; Regatta Entertainment; SXM GH; Carnival; 10th Coalition Govt; D-Boat Stuck; Four Restaurants; Two Parties; [39 News Stories]

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**Vol. 3, #1232 --- Monday, January 20, 2020**  
**News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**

Restaurant Special Double Issue == 1/13/20 - 1/20/20



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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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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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

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

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 --Get SkyMed BEFORE You Need It  
 #####

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 ---- \*\*\*\*\* SkyMed Customer Stories \*\*\*\*\*  
 Protect Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership from SkyMed  
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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:**

**NOT IN PDF**

**SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

**NOT IN PDF**

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

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

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

**THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

## 1. Big Swells Reach SXM from Storms off US Coast

Large swells from big winter storms off the US East Coast were predicted to reach St. Maarten starting on Sunday, January 19, and not ending until Tuesday. According to official predictions, some of the swells could be in excess of 10 feet high.

Such swells were forecast to cause minor coastal flooding in some areas (Maho beach, for example) and they can create dangerous conditions for swimmers. SXM has no lifeguards, so please be sure to swim with others and be very careful in these unusually rough temporary surf conditions.

On Sunday, big waves pushed tons of beach sand onto Beacon Hill Road, for a time shutting down traffic there entirely. For much of the day only one lane was passable. The road, between Maho beach and SXM Airport, is the only way into or out of the populous Beacon Hill residential area. It must be kept clear for emergency access -- a tall order with rough seas pounding the shore.

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## 2. Puerto Rican Quakes: "Naturals" Tsunami Warnings

Local politicians here in SXM are just becoming aware that tsunami warning sirens knocked out by hurricane Irma more than two years ago have not been restored. Hopefully the situation will be resolved quickly so these important warning sirens will be back in operation soon.

In the meantime, be aware that there are certain **natural tsunami warnings** which are nature's way of telling you that a tsunami may be in the offing. Here they are:

*"Naturals" tsunami warnings reiterated after Puerto Rico earthquakes. A natural tsunami warning may be your first best and only warning that a tsunami is on the way. Natural tsunami warnings include strong earthquakes, a loud roar like a train or an airplane coming from the ocean, and unusual ocean behavior. The ocean could look like a fast rising floater, a wall of water, or it could drain away suddenly showing the ocean floor reefs and fish like a very low tide. If you experience any of these warnings or just one a tsunami could be coming.*

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## 3. US Storm Jacob Affects Thousands of Flights

Major US winter storm Jacob started creating all kinds of tumult across much of the United States starting late last week. By early in the weekend, thousands of flights already had been canceled or were expected to be canceled or delayed from the Midwest through the Northeast.

It's peak travel time for flights from the US to SXM for high season vacations and many flights are usually sold out. In our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) just after midweek last week, we warned passengers leaving this weekend to contact their airlines to see if they could get away early and avoid the need to rebook canceled flights. Many did, especially those who were planning connections from Florida, Atlanta, and elsewhere. Those who are unable to do so, of whom there were many, are now facing the daunting task of trying to recoup what's left of their vacations thanks to this major winter storm, pictures of which have been posted by would-be SXM vacationers in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 4. Repeat Warning About Airline Schedule Changes

Airlines change their schedules regularly to meet the needs for seasonal travel throughout their route system, for fleet-related reasons, and for competitive reasons. The best airlines try to take care to make sure their schedule changes don't create problems with passenger connections — and some airlines are better at that than others.

Based upon comments from travelers to SXM, it appears that one of the most obnoxious offenders in this area is currently American Airlines, which also continues to make changes as it adjusts to the long-term unavailability of Boeing 737 Max airliners, grounded since March of last year.

Again, we want to remind all our readers who are flying American or any other airline to frequently check to be sure

your flight times are as you expect them to be. Some of the changes American has made can turn single-day trips into multi-day trips requiring a stayover in a connecting city. As well, the airline still has not restored the late-night flight it formerly had from Miami to SXM, which departed early the following morning back to Miami and enabled many single-day connections -- particularly from / to the US West Coast. Hopefully at some point that flight will be restored — it's badly needed.

Although all flights should be checked frequently for schedule changes, April has been a particular bone of contention for our readers; if you have April flights on American, it's important that you check those reservations now and continue to check them periodically.

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## 5. Jet Blue Going Carbon-Neutral on all Domestic Flights

JetBlue Airways has announced that it is going carbon-neutral on all domestic US flights in response to the now well-proven global impacts of climate change. Here is their entire [announcement](#).

Major legacy airlines, and many other large businesses, are expected to follow suit.

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## 6. Delta Being Sued Over Low-Altitude Cal. Fuel Dump

A Delta Airlines flight approaching LAX Airport last week dumped fuel at low altitude over multiple schools where recess was going on, requiring medical treatment for a number of school students. Fuel dumps are normally supposed to be executed at high altitude so the fuel evaporates, or over the ocean. Here, normal procedures were not followed. Here is information about the [lawsuit](#).

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## 7. Royal Caribbean Blames Grandfather for Infant's Death

Royal Caribbean continues to stand its ground, [blaming a grandfather](#) for the death of his grandchild who fell out of an open window on a Royal Caribbean cruise last year.

We are neither judge nor jury here, but it seems to us that situations like this could be prevented by safety officials at Royal Caribbean if they made sure accidents like this weren't even possible aboard their ships. It seems to us that instead of wanting to avoid a financial loss and a PR disaster, Royal Caribbean ought to admit that it faces some degree of responsibility here and stop tormenting the family of the infant that died aboard the Royal Caribbean ship.

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

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

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

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see [www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com). They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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## **9. 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...



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

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### 10. About SXM Hotel Development (Four Projects)

For those who haven't been paying attention over the last few months, there are four major hotel construction projects now underway in SXM.

First, very minor final items are rapidly being completed at the recently opened **Adonis Cupecoy hotel** on Rhine Road in Cupecoy beach, the first new hotel in that area in many years. (There is also a new hotel quietly coming along at the Porto Cupecoy condo complex nearby, near the French border.) Adonis Cupecoy is the first of three Adonis properties to be opened in SXM; the same chain has dozens of properties in and around Paris. Their SXM hotel offers immaculate accommodations and exceptionally low high-season pricing. They do not have a pool or restaurants since many restaurants are nearby and both Mullet Bay beach and Cupecoy Beach are within walking distance.

Second, construction at **Planet Hollywood**, the 465-room resort being built at the former location of Sonesta Great Bay, is now underway. The initial activity primarily regards the Royal Islander timeshare section of the resort as well as site preparations for general construction.

Third, the Secrets Resort in Anse Marcel is rapidly approaching its March 1 opening date, recently deferred from February. Secrets is a high-end chain of all-inclusive resorts which, like Planet Hollywood, is expected to attract a younger and more affluent demographic to the island than its current, somewhat older timeshare-centric demographic. (Canadian tour operators have cancelled March tours to Secrets since they don't send tours to just-opened resorts, creating something of a furor among their customers.) The Resort is saying it expects to open as scheduled March 1. (*SXM Weekly News* will tour it in advance and will post news and pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and here in *SXM Weekly News*.)

Fourth, guests at Dawn Beach Club continue to tell *SXM Weekly News* that construction work is already underway at the Westin Dawn Beach Resort and Casino, where some resort restaurants either already have reopened or are expected to do so at any time. Columbia Sussex, the owner of the property, has remained mum about when the Westin will reopen, though Dawn Beach Club guests continue to say it should be late this year.

Columbia Sussex has also been mum on whether any rebranding is expected. The resort is widely expected to be five-star.

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### 11. Where to Find SXM Timeshare Condo & Villa Rentals

If you've been thinking during the holidays that you like to visit SXM sooner rather than later, *SXM Weekly News* has you covered.

First, check our main site, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) for timeshare condo rentals directly from their owners. We don't charge our JMB Website Supporters members any commission for rentals they sell through our site, so the price you get is strictly between you and the timeshare owner. Hundreds are available for dates throughout 2020, and more will be coming available in the weeks ahead for later months in 2020 and in 2021.

Second, if you're looking for villa accommodations, check with the rental agencies/real estate companies we have listed below as sponsors in story number XX. They are local experts who can custom tailor a villa rental to your needs for size, location, and price. You are much better off seeing local villa rentals agencies on SXM who are familiar with the products they are selling rather than deal with some big monolithic online villa rental outfit that knows nothing about St. Maarten or the units they are attempting to rent to you....

We also have a limited number of villas available on the same page with our timeshare rentals on [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com), our main SXM website.

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### 12. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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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## 13. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

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](#). **See also story 26 in this issue for news about our upcoming new 2020 Relocation Seminar.**

**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

## 14. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updates Underway

Jeff is working this winter 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

## 15. Be Careful in SXM Waters!

Like most Caribbean islands, SXM does not have lifeguards. Beautiful SXM beaches can have rough surf and rugged currents just offshore and as a result, some may assume that SXM is utopia and not simply paradise.

Use normal precautions in the water that you would use anywhere else: always swim with someone else and don't

take risks. It also may be unwise to drink, then swim.

Be careful out there.

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## 16. D-Boat Tears Loose, Slams Against Rocks in S/Bay

D-boat, a party boat normally moored in either Simpson Bay or Simpson Bay lagoon, between a week ago Sunday night and Monday tore loose from its mooring in Simpson Bay off Simpson Bay beach and drifted to shore against coral cliffs in the Beacon Hill area. It was visible only yards away from the Beacon Hill scenic overlook.

The boat remained in that position into yesterday, when it started to get pummeled by a new round of high surf, the highest in the last two years.

On Saturday we had seen several boat personnel aboard, apparently examining the condition of the boat, which has no engine and no fuel aboard making environmental issues a non-concern. The boat was stuck in place Sunday and apparently secure.

We have asked D-Boat's owners for information on their plan of action and we expect to publish that information once they supply it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 17. Stayover Tourists are Back; P-Burg Sighs Relief

As is usually the case in mid-January, stayover tourists have started returning to the island in great numbers and can be expected to be here through the heart of this winter. Although business in Philipsburg is still not back to its pre-Irma levels, it has improved slightly.

As we previously published here, cruise ships visiting SXM late in their itineraries don't bring passengers here with much money left to spend. They fill downtown streets but they don't fill downtown cash registers except for some lunches, beers, and T-shirts. When many ships are in town, stayover tourists — who are the mainstay customers of Front Street jewelers — tend to stay away.

We recently conducted an extensive interview with Mai-Ling Chun, Dutch side head of Tourism, and will be serializing her comments in future issues of *SXM Weekly News*. The wide-ranging interview touched on many topics, one of which was what the future holds for Philipsburg. We think you will find the article interesting.

Philipsburg merchants have been hurting since Irma visited more than two years ago. Their sigh of relief at seeing many more stayover tourists was clear, but still not reassuring since they do seriously need business after two extremely difficult years.

Got Valentine's Day buying in mind? Philipsburg is the place to do it.

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## 18. Legends of Reggae "Inner Circle" to Perform at Regatta

The entertainment lineup for the 2020 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta just got hotter! International Reggae musicians, Inner Circle, will take the stage Saturday, March 7, for what will most certainly be a memorable performance. Best known for their "Bad Boys" and "Sweat (A la La La La Long)" hit, Inner Circle has been pleasing crowds for decades and this coming March will be no exception. Entrance to the Saturday evening show is free of charge up until 7:00 pm after which there is an entrance fee of \$20 per person. Sailors racing in the regatta will be able to gain complimentary access after 7:00 pm by showing their participants wristband at the entrance.

Back in the 1970s Inner Circle had the good fortune of being signed by Island Records. Massive commercial success of their first hit "Everything is Great" took them to the top of the charts in both the UK and France. This was the beginning of a career that continues to this day and shows no signs of slowing down. The band tours the world playing some of the world's largest music festivals and has headlined alongside artists like Elton John, Carlos Santana, Robert Plant, and many others.

Inner Circle has toured across the globe and will finally touch down on St. Maarten for the event's 40th edition and

they plan to bring their Jamaican vibes and upbeat lyrics to the main stage. The crowd can look forward to popular hits like "Sweat (la la la la long)" and "Games People Play" as well as many other famous hits. Smooth songs that embrace the island feel promise to keep your body swaying as the beats flow across the tradewinds.

For Event Production Director John Leone, adding Inner Circle to the line-up was an easy choice. "We've been trying to land "The Bad Boys of Reggae" for quite some time, and now they are coming to our festival! We are thrilled to be able to showcase their talents on our beautiful island. It's going to be an amazing event!"

The 40th edition of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta takes place this coming March 5-8, 2020 and promises to deliver a combination of competitive racing and legendary performances. The venue is located at Princess Port de Plaisance and will offer up a variety of food options, bars and lounge space for sailors to relax once the long days of racing are over. The venue, which is centrally located, offers up plenty of parking for those attending by car.

### **St. Maarten Heineken Regatta**

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, this Regatta just keeps getting better. Four days of world-class racing with some of the world's most seasoned sailors, hailing from over 35 countries. This is truly a Regatta for everyone including professional teams sailing Maxis, Monohulls and Performance Multihulls to holiday-makers on chartered Bareboats and live-aboard families cruising the Caribbean. Crystal clear waters and cooling northeast trade winds give the pristine conditions for spectacular racing just off the coast of St. Maarten. And with Heineken as title sponsor, the racing days blend seamlessly into four nights of exceptional parties. This event is your bucket list must-do! Come and enjoy life in the Caribbean, come for some Serious Fun from March 5 - 8, 2020!

For full information on the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, including results, photos, videos, party and band information, and much, much more, visit [www.heinekenregatta.com](http://www.heinekenregatta.com).

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## **19. 2020 St. Maarten Carnival Schedule Released**

From March 31 to April 11, several jump ups, pageants, and other events precede the official beginning of the St. Maarten Carnival on April 14. The carnival continues through Monday, May 4. The complete schedule for the 2020 carnival was released last week and was posted yesterday in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Use the search window for the term Carnival and you will find the complete 2020 schedule; you'll also find many pictures posted on that same site of prior Carnivals, especially the big one last year.

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## **20. LeGalion Renovations Just Beginning**

Almost 2 1/2 years ago, Hurricane Irma pummeled SXM: it was the most powerful tropical cyclone in Atlantic basin history with sustained winds of 185 miles per hour with recorded gusts up to 240 plus numerous tornadoes. Among many other effects, it obliterated everything on Orient beach and also on nearby Le Galion beach, which has been desolate ever since.

Sadly, one of the landmarks long-missed from LeGalion is Tropical Wave, the low-priced seafood restaurant operated by Patrick Turner that will not be returning once redevelopment has been completed.

Even before Irma struck, the Reserve Naturelle which administers both of these beaches was planning to clear LeGalion and return it to him more natural state. It still plans to do that, with walkways, waste receptacles, etc. It is just now saying it's about to start site preparations in the area and clearing away any debris still left from before.

Hopefully, the renewed natural area will be available for public use next season. The French side's record at executing recovery projects is far from enviable, however.

We will continue to report on this project as it hopefully moves forward.

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## **21. St. Maarten General Hospital Const. Begins**

Construction of the St. Maarten General Hospital has begun on land adjacent to the current St. Maarten Medical Center near Philipsburg.

Site preparations and reorganizing parking during construction are both priority items, but heavy construction should

be well underway by this summer. We expect to continue to publish pictures of the project as it moves forward in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 22. Dutch Side Election: Yet Another Coalition Forming

Nine times in the last nine years, the voters of the Dutch side have selected people they like from more than a dozen political parties to lead country St. Maarten.

Nine times in the last nine years, politicians who became part of coalition governments after such elections have switched their alliances not many months after the coalition governments had been formed, essentially rendering the coalitions impotent. As a consequence, Dutch side governments have fallen nine times in the last nine years.

Now, voters on the Dutch side have again elected people from disparate parties who are setting up yet another coalition government. There is sort of a new wrinkle this time, however -- the politicians are saying that this time they will actually stay put and not jump ship from one party to another. Weary voters hoping for a government that actually stays together and gets many important priorities accomplished are welcoming these promises — and of course, hoping they actually happen.

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## 23. Airport Still Waiting for \$\$\$

As we reported several weeks ago, officials from the Dutch side government went to DC to sign the papers enabling the Dutch side airport to receive in excess of \$120 million in financing so it could quickly resume airport reconstruction. Its intent has long been to rebuild SXM Airport better than it was before so it is capable of doing more, better, for the many millions of passengers who will be passing through the facility in the years ahead.

Unfortunately, it isn't that easy.

Contracts have been signed but other ancillary crossing of T's and dotting of I's has not, and the lack of a duly elected government for the last several weeks hasn't helped. Once the new government is in place — which will probably take at least another month — one would hope that all the details involved in reenergizing the airport reconstruction project will get a running start so that everything is finished well before the 2021 or 2022 stated completion date.

We are working on getting much more Airport information to our readers, soon.

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## 24. A Tale of Two Mexican Restaurants...

SXM has two very popular — and very different — Mexican restaurants.

One of them, that has been in business for somewhere around 16 years, is about to go out of business since its lease won't be renewed and its building is about to be demolished. That restaurant is Jimbo's, SXM's most popular TexMex restaurant.

Owned and operated by James Jimbo Morris, whose birthday is coming up on Valentine's Day, Jimbo's is a Simpson Bay landmark that will close with a major party on its last day, March 31, 2020. Jimbo says he is looking for new location somewhere in the same area hopefully and plans to open a new concept — evidently not another TexMex restaurant.

If you have or have not visited Jimbo's, do it before it disappears forever. Our friend Jimbo will be happy to thank you....

The other extremely popular restaurant is an authentic Mexican dining establishment, with a menu extremely similar to upscale restaurants visited today in Mexico. This is authentic Mexican, a very different animal from TexMex. When we recently took people who hate TexMex food with us (kicking and screaming) to La Patrona at Simpson Bay Resort -- they objected until they entered the restaurant and saw its beautiful surroundings... Then patiently waited for the food to arrive.

Upon tasting it, they said, "this is like fine dining in Grand Case," -- they were flat-out astonished by how delicious and innovative the dining really was and is. La Patrona has won our [Everything SXM Award of Excellence](#) ever since it first opened before Irma struck in 2017; those awards will again be distributed very soon, and you can expect La Patrona to again be a recipient. It is very well worth your visit. Reservations are essential, especially during high season.

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## 25. A Tale of Two Italian Restaurants...

Two of the finest restaurants on SXM are both Italian — and both extraordinary. First we'll look at **Spiga in Grand Case**.

In our view, it's the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case and one of the top three restaurants on the island. As is the case with the Dutch side Italian restaurant mentioned in the second part of the story, Spiga is not your typical US checkered plastic tablecloth kind of Italian restaurant (though there's nothing wrong with those places). Far from it. It is upscale contemporary Italian dining, with beautiful surroundings, exemplary service, and flat out spectacular dining.

Think of it as a top-notch big-city Fourth of July fireworks display. When you finish one course at Spiga, you may not expect the next course to be equally spectacular — until it happens. There is great creativity here and innovation and the enormous skill set of Chef **Ciro Russo** and **Lara Bergamasco Russo** (whose dad years ago owned and operated his namesake **Da Livio Restaurant**): they know exactly what they are doing.

Whether you crave beef, poultry, fish, or vegetarian entrées, appetizers, and desserts, you'll find it very difficult to locate any better restaurant anywhere. Spiga is a consistent winner of our [Everything SXM Award of Excellence](#). See their website at [www.Spiga-SXM.com](http://www.Spiga-SXM.com). Tell them we sent you.

**iZi Ristorante Italiano** Chef/owner **David Foini** has been in the restaurant business as long as anyone can remember. He started out as head of culinary aboard one of Royal Caribbean's ships but once he saw SXM, the native Italian knew he wanted to locate here.

His first culinary business venture was **La Raviolina** in Sandy ground just west of the French side drawbridge, where he manufactured fresh pasta and sold it to restaurants on both sides of the island. People tasting his pasta kept urging him to open his own restaurant which ultimately he did right at **La Raviolina** in Sandy ground. At times, it was quite an adventure with David acting as maître d', waiter, chef, and sometimes parking lot attendant (he accompanied many guests back to their car in the little parking lot across the street).

Eventually he became so busy serving a variety of dishes at **La Raviolina** that he devoted his time just to the restaurant and stopped manufacturing pasta for others, soon opening a brand-new restaurant called **La Gondola** in the former **Atlantis casino** near the French border on the Dutch side. It was an incredible success, attracting thousands of people every year ranging from billionaires from around the world to folks who just walked off the beach and went straight to the restaurant. It was also frequently visited by recording artists and well-known TV and motion picture luminaries.

Years later, David decided it was time for a simpler, more upbeat, more dynamic atmosphere, so he sold **La Gondola** and opened **iZi Ristorante Italiano** in Simpson Bay. His passion as a perfectionist chef and his tireless pursuit of perfection in every aspect of his business shows in the quality of the dining experience at **iZi** which is why this restaurant is also one of the top three on the island. Every recipe the restaurant uses is a result of thousands of hours of effort at constantly making things better by David himself. He has never lost his passion for delivering extraordinary culinary experiences which is why he continues to offer incredible [tasting menu](#) dining experiences — always with advance reservations. The tasting menu is the top culinary experience you can have at David's restaurant, where he goes out to deliver multiple courses of true fine dining paired with top-line selections from his own wine cellar. **David Foini** and **iZi Ristorante Italiano** are both long-time winners of our [Everything SXM Awards of Excellence](#). (They're on his wall near the cash register).

Whether you visit **Spiga** or **iZi Ristorante Italiano** (we urge you to visit both since they are remarkably different -- and highly remarkable) and try many selections from the menu including **iZi's** custom flatbread appetizers.

In fact, by popular demand, **iZi Ristorante Italiano** is now open for lunch as well as dinner, Tuesday through Saturday starting at 11 am.

These are our top two selections for Italian fine dining on SXM. There are more, of course that also offer excellent dining, and you will see them in future editions of our [Restaurant of the Week](#) stories here in *SXM Weekly News*.

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## 26. Two SXM Island Parties Coming for JMB Members

What would winter be if we weren't throwing parties for members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, along with some readers of *SXM Weekly News* and of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#)?

Two more winter parties are currently being planned, with more likely later this winter.

The first is a brand new relocation seminar expected to be led by Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team along with Vivian Chamas of BrightPath, an organization that provides custom-tailored services to ease the process of buying real estate in SXM and all the details of relocating to the island. You will see an article we wrote about her and BrightPath by searching for BrightPath in our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#). You can also see the original relocation seminar that we did with Arun back in November 2018; that video is [here](#).

As soon as the date and agenda of this party has been set we will open it up for your reservations through emails to JMB Website Supporters members and announcements both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Our second party this winter celebrates the growth and expansion of Toppers Rhum into the manufacturing of vodka here on SXM. Although that product hasn't been formally announced, the Toppers Rhum distillery under the direction of Melanie and Marni Daboul has been developing their vodka product for some months and our party may just be your first opportunity to taste it in the plant where it is being manufactured. Details on our second party will also be published soon in emails to our JMB Website Supporters members, in articles here in *SXM Weekly News*, and also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

More news on both of these parties follows soon.

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## 27. SkyMed Members, Please Read This...

Are you a SKYMED member? If so help your friends get the same peace of mind *you* have when you travel by telling them about SkyMed & have them see [skymed.com/jmb](http://skymed.com/jmb) for info --- and call us at 508-747-8281 w/ questions or to sign up.

No one ever joins SkyMed with the expectation they will actually have to use it but every day, throughout the SkyMed universe (USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean) people become critically ill or injured and need to be taken home where their health insurance works and where they can be taken care of by hospitals and doctors they know and trust.

SkyMed costs only about \$1.35/day -- \$499 per year per family. ***What you get is fast access to a fully equipped air ambulance with an ICU certified medical attendant on board capable of monitoring your condition and caring for you while in-flight, when you become critically ill or injured.*** Air ambulances can easily cost from \$24,000-\$50,000 payable in cash in advance. Why risk taking such a huge chunk out of your retirement savings? Let SkyMed pay for it.

As always, SkyMed *takes you home*@.

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## 28. Want an SXM Vacation? How to enter our Vacation Giveaway

**During our "Paradise SXM" Event**, we'll be giving away several SXM vacations, including weeks at Simpson Bay Resort, Belair Beach Hotel, Adonis Cupecoy hotel, Azure Hotel and Art Studio on Simpson Bay beach, and El Zafiro hotel and restaurant on Simpson Bay beach -- and other properties to be announced.

The giveaway celebrates our site surpassing 6.5 million visits. Most of the weeks we give away will be handed out to randomly picked entries late in March. Some others — particularly at villas and condominiums to be announced — will be given away a bit later. All are subject to seasonal limitations and availability.

In addition to vacations, we will give away dinners for two, gifts at jewelry stores, day sails, probably zipline trips, a car rental, and possibly some major gifts on one or two neighboring islands - all to be announced soon.

**Here is more on our Paradise SXM vacation giveaway.** To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com). That's the only place & the only way you can find the link to enter our giveaway. All winners \*MUST\* be subscribers to SXM Weekly News (required); it's free. We will verify that all winners are subscribers.

**Paradise SXM** will be one of our biggest Giveaways ever. Several people will be winning vacations from us. Why not you?

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## 29. 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.

## 30. Restaurant of the Week:

Returns next week. See stories 24 and 25 for articles on four excellent SXM restaurants.

### Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, 1/6/20.** Italian. Excellent food, many choices, busy, good specials. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers. [www.isolaristorante.com](http://www.isolaristorante.com)

**Avantika Thai [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 12/30/19) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.**

**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.

**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 Sushiiitto) (7/8/19)** is the new name of Sushiiitto, 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....

**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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## 31. 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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## 32. 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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## 33. 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) 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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## 34. 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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## **35. Going Somewhere? Get Guaranteed Renewable Annual SkyMed 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 \$25,000 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 5 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.

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

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

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

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

## 38. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 1/20)

### **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**

### **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](#)**

**[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#)** NEW!

Jewels & Linens (Maho) NEW!

**[Shoppers Haven](#)**

**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**

**Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar**

**Nowhere Special**

**ROXXY Bar / Restaurant (NEW)**

LA ROSA (NEW)

NONNA ROSA (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 1/20/20

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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 beyond. 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.**

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#### **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).

### **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)

1/20/20 #V3-1232 6:00 pm AST 1/19

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