

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/24/20: 737 MAX; AA; SECRETS; Dengue; SkyMed Evacuation; Heineken Regatta; Broken Leg Complications [38 SXM News Stories]

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Vol. 3, #1237 --- Monday, Feb. 24 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

Member News

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

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

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Important Note:

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

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 336,000 people around the world...

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



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Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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

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

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather; Getting Here:

- ***New Boeing 737 MAX Problem Aggravates Consumer Sentiment***
- ***AA Says it Will Start Flying 737 MAX This Summer***

-- **Attn. West Coast Flyers: AA, Alaska Air Enhance Partnership**
-- **Bizarre Weather Continues in SXM --- & Around the World**

SXM Accommodations:

-- **SECRETS Resort's Full-Priced SOFT Opening is March 1**
-- **2020, 2021 Timeshare Rentals Available Now on EverythingSXM.com**

Island Headlines for Tourists:

-- **JMB Launches Its Biggest SkyMed Medevac Sale Ever...**
-- **Heads up: Mosquitoes & Dengue, Chikungunya, & Zika**
-- **Caribbean Foiling Championships on Orient Beach**
-- **Cupecoy Monolith Continuing to Disintegrate**
-- **Sandy Ground Bridge Repairs Resume**
-- **Your Summer Vacation in SXM...**
-- **Never Sunbathe Under Palm Trees**
-- **Missed Our Toppers Distillery Party? What to Do**
-- **Our Heineken Regatta Info Center Is Now Live**
-- **Husband Breaks Leg: Then Things Get Worse...**
-- **Orient Beach: No Seaweed / Busy**

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

-- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**

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-- **SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic**

Please see our [complete Table of Contents](#) below.

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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 3/7/2020 3/14/2020 Week 10 **Simpson Bay Resort Studio Sleep 4 Saturday to Saturday** check in. Two queen beds and fully equipped kitchen in newly remodeled units. Ocean view and fantastic sunsets. Close to beach, pools, watersports, deli, restaurants and all amenities. \$1,500.00 Bonnie 603-321-7631 sxmdream@hotmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/21/2020 4/4/2020 Weeks 12 & 13 **Simpson Bay Resort & Casino** Marina penthouse, 1 of 5 suites on top floor, includes dedicated parking; Sleep 6 w. 2 bedrooms with king beds & TVs, 2 twin Murphy beds, 2 full baths, 2 convenience safes; recently renovated including stainless steel kitchen appliances, granite counters, 4 bar stools; unusually spacious living space, approx. 1700 sq. feet, includes seat-6 dining table, living room w. TV, enclosed patio w. wet bar, convertible sofa, additional seat-4 table/chairs; large balcony overlooks Simpson Bay & has hot tub; easy access to beaches, pools, tennis courts, gym, restaurants; walking distance to many restaurants in Simpson Bay; pictures available on request; willing to negotiate multiple week purchase; \$19,500 per week Pat (347) 387-2294 patc4226@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at 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](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Group:



<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

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

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

Section One: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather [Go To This Section](#)

1. New Boeing 737 MAX Problem Aggravates Consumer Sentiment
2. AA Says it Will Start Flying 737 MAX This Summer
3. Attn. West Coast Flyers: AA, Alaska Air Enhance Partnership
4. Bizarre Weather Continues in SXM --- & Around the World
5. Saharan Dust Visits Caribbean
6. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
7. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

Section Two: Accommodations (Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.) [Go To This Section](#)

8. SECRETS Resort's Full-Priced SOFT Opening is March 1
9. 2020, 2021 Timeshare Rentals Available Now on Everythingxsm.com
10. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
11. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

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

Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits [Go To This Section](#)

12. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates Underway

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features [Go To This Section](#)

- 13. JMB Launches Its Biggest SkyMed Medevac Sale Ever...**
- 14. Heads up: Mosquitoes & Dengue, Chikungunya, & Zika**
- 15. Caribbean Foiling Championships on Orient Beach**
- 16. Cupecoy Monolith Continuing to Disintegrate**
- 17. Sandy Ground Bridge Repairs Resume**
- 18. Your Summer Vacation in SXM...**
- 19. Never Sunbathe Under Palm Trees**
- 20. Missed Our Toppers Distillery Party? What to Do**
- 21. Our Heineken Regatta Info Center Is Now Live**
- 22. Husband Breaks Leg: Then Things Get Worse...**
- 23. Orient Beach: No Seaweed / Busy**
- 24. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ (New)**
- 27. Enter our SXM Vacation Giveaway**
- 28. Get SkyMed Now For All Upcoming Trips: Member Stories**
- 29. Restaurant of the Week:**
- 30. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly**
- 31. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How**
- 32. Major SkyMed Promo Now Continues**
- 33. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / skymed.com/jmb**

=====

- 34. Going Anywhere?**
SkyMed's Guaranteed Renewable Annual Membership is Just \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available
- 35. Are You Military?**
- 36. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate**
- 37. Please Patronize our Sponsors**
- 38. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic**

Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at 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 . 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. New Boeing 737 MAX Problem Aggravates Consumer Sentiment

Consumer sentiment against the Boeing 737 Max airliner, already bad, may be getting significantly worse as consumers find out that Boeing has discovered yet another significant problem with the aircraft: unexpected refuse in the airplane's fuel tanks, which could cause huge problems were it not discovered before the airplanes were airborne. Much more on this problem is [here](#).

It's not the first time that Boeing has had problems in new airliners. Multiple 727 airplanes crashed until pilots were properly trained about how to land them. Initial problems with 787 airliners included fires in lithium-ion batteries on the airplanes.

Because multiple problems have been discovered with the 737 Max even after its MCAS system was shown to be the cause of two fatal crashes that killed 356 people, it's highly likely that whenever it returns to the skies, consumers will be highly skittish about using it: many have said already and they have no intention of flying it at all.

As we have for the past year, we will continue to keep you posted about the 737 Max which, in the past, has been used by multiple airlines for flights to SXM.

2. AA Says it Will Start Flying 737 MAX This Summer

Despite the fact that the Federal Aviation Administration has yet to approve the return of the Boeing 737 Max to the skies, American Airlines is now saying it expects to return the planes to service starting this summer. Here is their [message to consumers](#).

3. Attn. West Coast Flyers: AA, Alaska Air Enhance Partnership

American Airlines and Alaska Air are enhancing their partnership, a fact which is of significance to West Coast fans of St. Maarten.

Here is the complete story.

AA / Alaska Air Expand Partnership

"I couldn't be more excited to share with you that we are partnering with American Airlines to create a West Coast International Alliance—connecting our network to the rest of the world in a remarkable way. Our Global Partners have always provided guests with the opportunity to go global, but today, we are proud to strengthen our relationship with American Airlines, and in Summer 2021, plan to join the oneworld® alliance. This means traveling on Alaska, American or a oneworld partner will feel like one connected travel experience—no matter who or where you fly.

Most importantly, as a resident of this beautiful region, our new alliance will let you earn and redeem miles on an expansive list of domestic and international destinations out of Seattle, significantly more than any other airline or global alliance. This includes today's announcement by American Airlines for the first nonstop flight from Seattle to Bangalore, India, starting October of this year, along with new service from Seattle to London in the Spring of 2021.

So when can you expect to see these benefits?

Effective immediately:

- Redeem Alaska Mileage Plan™ miles on all American Airlines flights.
- Access any of American's 50 Admirals Club locations worldwide with an Alaska Lounge membership.
- Continue to earn and redeem Alaska Mileage Plan miles on our current portfolio of 16 Global Partners.

Starting Spring 2020:

- Earn Alaska Mileage Plan miles on any American Airlines flights, domestically and internationally.

Starting Summer 2021:

- Earn and redeem Alaska Mileage Plan miles on all oneworld airlines.
- Alaska elites will enjoy privileges, including priority boarding, premium seating, baggage benefits and more when you fly on American Airlines or any oneworld airline.
- Access 650 lounges within the oneworld network as an MVP Gold or Gold 75K member.

We will share more details with you as these benefits become available.

We are honored that you trust us with your travel needs. On behalf of Alaska and our 23,000 employees who work tirelessly to deliver their best to you every day, thanks for flying with us.

Andrew Harrison
Chief Commercial Officer"

Bear in mind that we have stated that we believe JetBlue a year from now could further increase its service from Fort Lauderdale, as more properties come online here in SXM. We also believe that Southwest air and JetBlue could both be flying to SXM from either BWI (in the case of Southwest) or DCA (national airport) in the case of JetBlue, at some point in the future. Expect such adds to grow significantly as more new hotels open or reopen, and as the Airports renovations get finished sometime in 2022. Preclearance could be a reality late in 2022 or in 2023 — hopefully sooner if the government gets its act in gear.

4. Bizarre Weather Continues in SXM --- & Around the World

As most readers by now are fully aware, weather around the world has been really weird for some time and it appears to be getting more bizarre as we move forward.

Earlier this winter, Europe experienced hurricane like storms. The Western Antarctic ice sheet is melting faster than earlier thought, and this Summer (now) parts of that continent experienced temperatures above 60°F, a record. Australia has had record fires and weather has continued to be weird throughout the US.

Here in SXM, the entire winter has seen weird whether.

Last November, which is usually showery, was gorgeous. December was windy and rainy and January was the wettest January in memory in the last several decades. February has also been wet and windy, although semi-sunny weather in SXM, visitors agree, is preferable to shoveling snow or scraping ice back home.

13 years ago, a video was produced to dramatize the effects of climate change on SXM; those potential impacts are profound. We think you will be interested in seeing [St. Maarten -- Past, Present, and Future](#), regardless of your politics.

5. Saharan Dust Visits Caribbean

It looks like a summer haze that you may encounter back home — but it isn't. It doesn't happen particularly often, and when it occurs it's brief — but annoying. It's dust blown across the Caribbean from the Sahara desert in Africa. It sounds implausible and impossible but here it is.

In addition to a temporary haze usually lasting just a few days, Saharan dust can cause a bit of eye and throat irritation; we just want you to be aware of it. It was here late last week.

6. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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

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

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

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

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

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

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

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

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

More stories are below.

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***

7. 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, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks...

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

8. SECRETS Resort's Full-Priced SOFT Opening is March 1

Many hundreds of SECRETS fans have joined our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) in the last couple of months, interested in finding out much more about the new resort in Anse Marcel, French side.

Well, not really new. The location has been occupied by three previous failed ventures — L'Habitation; Radisson Blue; and most recently, the Riu Palace, which spent a lot of money but never really went anywhere.

Seasoned observers have said that when SECRETS decided to buy the property it should more wisely have done a complete tear down and build new rather than trying to completely repair the near total destruction that hurricane Irma had left behind. Anse Marcel may have been the worst hit area on the entire island, though that's an observation best left to historians. Everything in the storm's path here -- a small low-lying coastal area surrounded by mountains — was pretty much blown to smithereens by the storm.

Nonetheless, AMResorts and the SECRETS people elected to shoehorn a full-fledged resort here and no doubt have spent millions of dollars trying to make that happen.

All construction projects in SXM always happen on Caribbean time (though there are rare exceptions - Sonesta Maho is one.) With its existing presence in the Caribbean, SECRETS should have understood that and it should never have sold occupancy to people early in this year. It had to rebook a number of people who had been booked before March 1.

Now, faced with losing a lot of money because its resort is still not open, *the resort decided that it would do its best to accommodate hundreds of people who paid full price expecting to be staying at a fully open all-inclusive resort even though what it is delivering to them is not the final product.*

We've been reporting on this situation through a special SECRETS thread in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), featuring lots of photography taken around the property by tourists, some of whom live nearby. We expect to have many more photographs posted in a bit more than a week by people who will be checking in their when the resort actually "opens" March 1.

It is crystal-clear that this is a soft opening — José Castillo, Dir. Sales, has used that very expression in communications with people who have made reservations there in March and beyond. In fact, we believe the "soft" opening may well continue through much of April.

Although hotel guests paid full price for their accommodations and are expecting a fully functioning all-inclusive resort, it's quite clear that the place they're going to is a NOT completely finished work-in-progress (still something of a construction site, at least as of this writing).

That leads to several questions which we posed here last week and which the resort has yet to answer. If you're

going to SECRETS early in March, you might want to print these, give them to Jose, and ask for formal written answers we can publish.

Those questions are:

What accommodations, services, amenities, restaurants, and facilities will NOT be available for use if/when you "open" as announced March 1? What is the exact timetable for making all of these entities available to SECRETS Resort St. Martin guests?

How exactly will you refund funds paid for SECRETS Resort features that will be unavailable for guests due to the Resort not being finished when they have paid fully in advance for occupancy/use?

How are you compensating customers' flight changes made necessary by Resort unavailability?

How are you handling immediate, on-time execution of replacement facilities, flights, etc. for weddings and other major events which SECRETS St. Martin cannot accommodate due to its incompleteness?

Again, If you expect to be a guest at SECRETS March 1 or shortly thereafter, we ask you to bring these questions to Mr. Castillo and ask him to answer them in writing and sent to us (to [susank\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susank[at]jmbcommunications.com)) so we can post them here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Hotel guests have a right to the answers.

9. 2020, 2021 T/share Rentals Available on Everythingsxm.com

EDIT

The demand for accommodations keeps increasing and even with new hotels opening on the island or nearing their opening during 2021 and 2022, it's clear that demand for 2021 will be high. For that reason, we have decided to enable our JMB Website Supporters members to start placing ads for timeshare rentals with 2021 dates effective immediately. The next update of our timeshare listings, which will take place in the next few days, will include initial 2021 (as well as 2020) timeshares offered by our JMB Website Supporters members.

Bear in mind that these are direct rentals that buyers purchase directly from our JMB Website Supporters members. There is no middleman, there are no rental fees, and there is nothing else to get in the way of you making your best possible deal directly with the timeshare owner. That's why our timeshare rental ads on [everythingSXM.com](#) are among the most popular means for tourists to rent SXM timeshare weeks directly from owners.

Again, you will find those weeks on our main SXM website, [everythingSXM.com](#).

10. 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.

11. 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](#).

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*.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

12. 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](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

13. JMB Launches Its Biggest SkyMed Medevac Sale Ever...

SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when traveling.

Here are particulars:

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Services here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2020SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

Important SkyMed Facts:

SkyMed *Takes You Home* benefits apply in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Optional GETS (Global Emergency Transport Services) coverage is available in the rest of the world, but service is not provided to countries on the U. S. State Department's "do not travel" warnings list.

Our March Madness Sale:

From now through March 31, 2020, here's what our March Madness SkyMed Sale delivers:

1. Buy a new or upgrade to a new Five Year SkyMed Ultimate membership

through us, and we'll give you a five year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership on us (our reg. cost for a new five-year JMB membership is \$139.00). If you're not a JMB member, we'll set up a new five-year JMB membership on us. Note: If you're upgrading, your original SkyMed membership must have been bought through us.

2. RENEW a five-year Ultimate bought through us for another five years, and *we'll give you a five year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership on us (our reg. cost for a new five-year JMB membership is \$139.00).*
3. Same as (a), but applies to three-year SkyMed Ultimate memberships. Buy or upgrade to a three-year SkyMed membership, and *we'll set up a new three-year JMB membership on us.* Note: If you're upgrading, your original SkyMed membership must have been bought through us.
4. RENEW a three-year Ultimate bought through us for another three years, and *we'll give you a three-year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership on us (our reg. cost for a new three-year JMB membership is \$109.00).*
5. Buy a new Annual SkyMed membership from us and *we'll give you a one-year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership on us (our reg. cost for a new one-year JMB membership is \$59.00).*
6. NOT A JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS MEMBER? No problem: We'll set up a JMB membership for you. See next item.
7. All purchases must be made through us between February 21, 2020, and March 31, 2020 by phone at 508-747-8281. Purchases made any other way do not qualify for these JMB Website Supporters benefits. If you are not visiting SXM no substitutions are available for the above offers.

14. Heads up: Mosquitoes & Dengue, Chikungunya, & Zika

Although Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, and Zika have not been grabbing headlines in SXM for several years, they are neither gone nor forgotten. Dengue Fever, carried by "vector" aedes aegypti mosquitoes that have bitten a person infected with Dengue, can be very painful and if suffered a second time in its hemorrhagic form, can be fatal. A French tourist last week passed away in Paris after being evacuated there after contracting Dengue on the French side.

Aedes aegypti mosquitos unlike typical annoying mosquitoes are black with white markings that look a bit like racing stripes. Use mosquito repellents wherever you travel in tropical climates worldwide. These particular mosquitoes are spreading every Summer in the US as the climate warms and are already across the southern United States and up the East Coast as far as southwestern Connecticut.

They are not just a concern in the Caribbean.

15. Caribbean Foiling Championships on Orient Beach

A new event kicked off on Friday in Orient Bay about foiling, a growing sport for watersports enthusiasts from the region and beyond. Here is the story:

40 motivated competitors gathered up in Orient Bay early on Friday to race in the very first edition of the Caribbean Foiling Championships. Racers were a mix-group of seasoned kitefoilers and windfoilers from neighbouring Caribbean islands and abroad, together with young riders who were eager to show their skills in foiling.

Foiboarding is a recent and popular development in the kitesurfing and windsurfing world. It consists of adding a hydrofoil under a kitesurf or windsurf board to limit water resistance which elevates the rider above the water. As

such, foilboarders seem to be floating above the surface in a fast, free and fluid movement.

As the race was scheduled to start at 8.00 a.m., all competitors were ready early and in high spirits. The first race planned was the Around the Island Race, with the record held by Sebastien Queney from Guadeloupe who completed the tour in 1 hour and 29 minutes last year. As the championships has two categories, a professional and a leisure category, many professional riders were driven to break this record.

Most of the younger riders, as young as 14 years old like Ella Geiger from Antigua and 15 years old Justin Pieterse from Sint Maarten, had never raced in a long distance race before. Nolan Bourgeois, 14 years old windfoiler from Guadeloupe said: "I am a bit nervous but I really want to make it to the finish line, and I think I can even challenge some of the adults."

Female riders were also in the starting blocks, well decided to show their skills and have fun. "It's not my first time in Sint Maarten but first time foiling here" said Cora Maziere from Martinique, backed up by her team of supporters.

Unfortunately, the wind was too low and the weather became overcast. While waiting for the wind to pick up, contestants happily mingled together and shared their foiling stories. Contestants were coming from as far as Greece, the Netherlands, France, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Antigua & Barbuda, Martinique, and the Guadeloupe windfoiler team even chartered their own plane to come down due to the large volume of their gears. Tourists joined as well inquiring about this new sport, and excited to see a new event taking place, in a friendly spirit on the friendly island.

Eventually, the Race Officer and Emmanuel Demanez, owner at Windsurf Adventures in Orient Bay, decided that the race could not take place under those conditions safety-wise, which is a top priority for the Caribbean Foiling Championships. It was decided that the race was going to be around Tintamarre. After lunch break, the wind finally picked up and the sun got out as competitors were busy preparing their kitefoils and windfoils.

Referees from the French Federation of Sailing coming from Guadeloupe gave the go-ahead of the race. Windfoilers started first, followed by the professional kitefoilers. The strength of the wind remained a challenge and a couple had to drop out, helped by the rescue boats of Wind Adventures. The leisure category race was cancelled as it would have been too difficult for contestants to go upwind.

Young Elliott Pierre-Heym from Saint-Martin was the last to make it to the finish line on his windfoil, proud to have completed the full tour and not giving up, welcomed on shore by his dad and siblings. Maite Benvenu, also racing on a windfoil, said: "With this low wind it was difficult to race but the color of the water is so nice and we saw dolphins on the way back!". The pros continued to kitefoil in the bay until sunset.

Even if they did not all race, all contestants were able to go out on the water and have fun during the afternoon. Paddle boards, wakeboarding and other watersports were available. Sacha van der Wouden and Maxim van den Pol, the organizers, explain: "We're always dependent on weather condition for foiling, it's a sport very much in touch with nature and we cannot do much about it, but still make sure that everybody has a good time".

The event is still on for Saturday and Sunday in Orient Bay, where professional and leisure foilers alike are ready to put on a show and encourage more people to try out this new sport.

More: www.caribbeanfoiling.com.

16. Cupecoy Monolith Continuing to Disintegrate

A few decades ago, the famous Cupecoy Monolith — a huge rock formation off the string of beaches called Cupecoy — was mammoth, dominating the shore and being the focal point for thousands of tourist pictures taken from the shore or the water.

Battering from countless storms over the years has been taking its toll on the Monolith, which at one point had been probably 50 times the size of the famous Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts — landing point of the pilgrims in 1620 and probably one of the most photographed rocks on the planet, next to Gibraltar.

At the rate the Monolith's disintegration is going, before too much longer Plymouth Rock will be bigger — and if you've seen Plymouth Rock you'll have noticed that it's not all that big....

We welcome you to post your current and past pictures of the Monolith in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

17. Sandy Ground Bridge Repairs Resume

The Sandy Ground drawbridge just west of downtown Marigot near the former (original) location of Mario's Bistro has been nonfunctional for some time. Although an announcement by the Collectivite says that reconstruction of the drawbridge is to start March 7, in fact appears to have already begun. We went over the drawbridge a few days ago and workers were on both sides of it apparently swarming over its innards in preparation for actual reconstruction.

We don't know what the schedule is for completing the project, and quite frankly it probably doesn't matter — the French side is even more notorious for not finishing things on time than the Dutch side:(it's the Caribbean, mon.)

Our guess: optimistically, late this year. We'll see..

18. Your Summer Vacation in SXM...

There are a lot of reasons you should be here in SXM during the Summer: this is just a short list.

1. No crazy traffic jams. Unlike trips to Long Island beaches, the Jersey shore, Cape Cod, New Hampshire, and countless other places, SXM tends to be quiet in the summer, delivering lots of saved time you can use to succumb to sand gravity rather than lamenting traffic in your car and wondering what's causing the latest massive jam. St. Maarten puts more real vacation in your vacation.

2. Much better weather. July will may well be the most perfect month of the year in SXM, with dry skies, gorgeous weather, low humidity, nearly constant gentle tradewinds and beautifully memorable sunsets — far from the unbearable sweltering you will have to endure should you stay home in the US.

3. Your favorite restaurants are open. Annual closures don't generally begin until September, so chances are high that your favorite restaurants will be open for the entire summer. They also won't be crowded — so you probably won't need reservations (reservations are essential in high season). Service is the same as always as are recipes and your favorite servers. Compare that with the sweaty hordes back home....

4. Reasonable airfares and plenty of seat availability. Although some airlines have less frequent service during the summer or change to smaller aircraft, there is still ample airlift from the US and Canada to SXM throughout the entire summer, which means it's just as convenient to get here from there as it usually is. The planes tend to be less crowded, so you can generally get the dates you want without a lot of work.

5. Uncrowded beaches. Kinda speaks for itself, doesn't it?

Here are a few hotel recommendations, too:

<https://azurehotelsxm.com/>

<http://www.simpsonbayresort.com>

<https://bakerssuites.com/>

19. Never Sunbathe Under Palm Trees

It has been windy and there has been a fair amount of rain over the last several weeks here in SXM, which means many coconut palm trees are loaded with ripe coconuts.

A gorgeous palm tree on an equally gorgeous Caribbean beach is an inviting place to put your blanket or lounge and set up a relaxing day. ***Don't do it.***

We had done exactly that back in the 1990s at Pigeon Cove, a small beach on the beautiful island of Tobago in the southern Caribbean. We were enjoying the idyllic setting. My eyes were closed as I was baking in the sun when suddenly I heard a loud thump and felt a bunch of sand hit the side of my head. I got up, brushed the sand off my face, and saw that of very large green coconut pod had smashed to the ground from the tall tree above and landed a few inches to the right of my head.

We quickly moved.

The bottom line is that people do get killed by coconuts crashing to the ground — not just on beaches, but anywhere there are coconut palms with people underneath, even if they're just walking by. Be careful where you sit and be careful where you walk if there are coconut palms around: the life you save may be your own.

20. Missed Our Toppers Distillery Party? What to Do

The Toppers Rum and Vodka Distillery down the street from the Ace Hardware store in Cole Bay off the Union Road was the setting for our JMB Website Supporters members island party last Wednesday. Close to 80 people enjoyed free rum and vodka tastings. Toppers produces everything right in SXM and distributes in dozens of countries many flavors of rum and now (currently) two types of vodkas — both the straight vodka and a vanilla flavor. The vodka will be introduced in the USA later this year.

The distillery offers incredible rum cakes, a spectrum of Flavored Rums in different size bottles, lots of souvenirs, and of course full-fledged distillery tours so you can see how the process of creating rums actually happens. (Rhum is the French spelling of rum.)

For much more information, please visit www.toppersrum.com.

21. Our Heineken Regatta Info Center Is Now Live

The fortieth edition of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, the largest warm water Regatta in the world, happens early in March. We have now launched Heineken Regatta Media Center in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), giving you a library of all the significant news releases yet issued about this remarkable Regatta.

If you're lucky enough to be here, have your telephoto lens ready and fresh batteries — it will be a busy few days. As always, we will be posting race pictures, race results, and hopefully festivities pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), as well as full results here in *SXM Weekly News*.

22. Husband Breaks Leg: Then Things Get Worse...

Last Thursday night, an American tourist from New England broke his leg here and needed an emergency medical evacuation back to New England. He could not be treated even by the French side hospital. The victim notified us and also put a note on Facebook looking for help — the wrong thing to do (Facebook) since the expertise they needed wasn't there, just a lot of opinions.

Following one of those opinions before talking to us, they contacted a company that asked for their credit card and deducted \$37,000 from their account — their charge for the medical evacuation from SXM back to New England.

When everythingSXM chief honcho and SkyMed ambassador Jeff Berger became aware of that charge, he knew it was out of line with normal pricing from SXM to New England, which should be significantly less for non-SkyMed members. (SkyMed members pay about \$1.35 a day for guaranteed renewable annual MedEvac protection. SkyMed takes them home free when they become critically ill or injured while traveling.)

As soon as he heard the \$37,000 price, Jeff contacted SkyMed who called the man's wife to try to help evacuate her husband at a price far more in line with reality and fairer to the customer. That SkyMed evacuation was scheduled to be completed Sunday afternoon at a savings of thousands of dollars under the price they would otherwise have had to pay.

We always say here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) that you need to get SkyMed before you need it — exactly like fire insurance. In this case, it would've saved Barbara and her husband that entire original \$37,000 non-SkyMed price. Why risk that? Please see www.skymed.com/jmb and call us for answers to questions or to sign up at 508-747-8281; that way we get credit and you get a quality product that takes you home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust in a critical medical emergency.

Don't put it off.

23. Orient Beach: No Seaweed / Busy

A visit to Orient beach this past weekend showed great conditions for naturists at Club Orient at the southern end of beach — warm, relatively calm waters now (though sea conditions can change) and no seaweed — pretty much perfection.

24. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ (New)

SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to Common Questions

This document contains general SkyMed information in answer to common questions. SkyMed's services are defined by its Member Services Agreements — plain English documents that tell you what you get and how it works (see much more info below). As always, SkyMed offers a 30-day "Free Look period," so if for any reason you're not satisfied with your unused SkyMed protection before 30 days have expired, SkyMed will refund your money.

Q1. Does it cover my trip to...?

1. Basic short-term and annual "SkyMed *Takes You Home*®" protection applies throughout the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global Emergency Travel Services (G.E.T.S., a subsidiary of SkyMed) protection is available outside the USA, CANADA, MEXICO, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA, and the CARIBBEAN (the rest of the world), however neither SkyMed nor G.E.T.S. covers trips to nations on the U. S. State Department's then-current "Do Not Travel" list — North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela currently, for example, and several others. Before planning a trip, check that list if you have any question about whether protection is provided for your destination — or call SkyMed directly during normal office hours (Mountain Standard Time) at 480 946 5188 or 1-800-475-9633.

Q2. Who is protected?

1. "Single" protection is available for individual travelers. "Family" protection includes your spouse or domestic partner and your young children up to 18 or 24 if they are full time students.

Q3. Do I need to call SkyMed before traveling outside my home country?

1. If you're traveling during the normal high season for travel to your destination, no. If you're traveling to your destination during its low season, do call SkyMed Member Services at the 800 number in the first question and let them know.

Q4. What if I'm going to a country not listed above in question 1?

1. Then you'll need (G.E.T.S) protection. If you have one of our Ultimate multiyear memberships, (G.E.T.S.) protection is included. On Annual (one-year) memberships, "G.E.T.S." protection is an inexpensive option.

Q5. What's the difference between "short term" and "Annual" or multi-year protection?

1. Short-Term protection is intended for brief trips, say a week or two. Like Annual protection, it "Takes You Home®" to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. Preexisting medical conditions are covered from day one with the short-term plan. It's inexpensive, only \$15/day for family protection. Remember, though, that Annual and Multi-year Ultimate memberships cost much less — only about \$1.35/day for family plans. Plus, they're guaranteed renewable without regard to advancing age or declining health. If you get a short-term plan, once it has expired, it is done, and you must reapply and requalify for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew before the renewal deadline — no need to reapply unless your membership has lapsed and the grace period has ended.

Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?

1. There is no age limit to apply. There's no age limit on renewals, either.

Q7. Can you cancel my protection at a certain age or if I get really sick?

1. Annual and multi-year Ultimate memberships are guaranteed renewable, as noted above. They will not be cancelled simply because you're a certain age or because your health has changed.

Q8. Will you raise the price of my membership at a certain age or if I get sick?

1. Once you're a SkyMed member, at renewal time you'll pay the same low renewal fees that everyone else with your type of membership pays. If you join at age 75 or older and purchase the X-Pat plan because you live in Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, or the Caribbean, the X-Pat plan is more expensive than the standard traditional (Annual or multiyear Ultimate) plan.

Q9. What exactly does SkyMed cover? Is it health insurance?

1. You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

This is the same list you'll find on the back of our current membership applications. SkyMed provides up to 18 benefits related to medical evacuation if you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. It is not health insurance – in the “SkyMed universe,” SkyMed *Takes You Home®* to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, where your health insurance works.

Q10. What about pre-existing conditions? Are they covered?

1. Yes: for short-term memberships, medevac protection (including items listed in the answer to Q9, above) is included for critical illnesses or injuries related to pre-existing and non-pre-existing conditions. For Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, pre-existing conditions are covered after a brief 90-day waiting period.

Q11. I want guaranteed renewable protection because of my age, but I'm going on a trip sooner than 90 days. What can we do about that?

1. Get our inexpensive short-term membership to cover your near-term trip, including medical evacuations for serious or critical illnesses or injuries due to pre-existing conditions. At the same time, apply for an Annual or Ultimate membership, to kick in once your near-term trip ends.

Q12. I'm not traveling for a while. When should I apply?

1. Get SkyMed before you need it – just like fire insurance. Since you don't know when you'll need it – and since health can change in a heartbeat thanks to falls, accidents, or other issues – it's always better to do it sooner rather than later. Beyond that, if you have pre-existing conditions and get SkyMed Annual or multiyear Ultimate medevac protection now, that 90-day exclusion period for pre-existing conditions protection may well be finished by the time you travel.

Q13. What kind of questions do you ask in your application? Do you send somebody to do a medical exam?

1. There's no medical exam. Our application is simple, asking about hospitalizations in the last six months, your current medical conditions, and your prescriptions – and on the prescriptions, all we need is their name, not dosage info. If you have a complex medical history, SkyMed may ask for a “HQ” (health questionnaire) to be completed by your doctor and submitted to SkyMed by fax. You should also have your passport number handy; we record it so it's there in case you need help outside your home country.

Q14. How long does it take before I hear whether I'm accepted?

1. Generally just a few business days, but it's always best to do your application early to ensure sufficient time for processing.

Q15. I have more questions. Where do I find the answers?

1. SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger, located in Massachusetts, will be happy to answer your questions. Call his private line at 508-747-8281.

Q16. Can I sign up online?

1. For fastest results, we always suggest you contact us directly. We've done thousands of applications and can whisk you through the process in minimal time and with minimal bother. To get additional information first and see some customer stories, check our site, www.skymed.com/jmb . But to sign up, always call 508-747-8281. The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

Q17. Who can get SkyMed?

1. SkyMed is available to residents of the USA and Canada, and to X-Pats living in the countries listed in Q1. X-Pat protection is necessary if you live outside the US or Canada for six months or more, in aggregate, in any 12-month period. Always notify SkyMed if you move.

Q18. I have a rather deep medical history. Will SkyMed still accept me?

1. Although SkyMed accepts the vast majority of applications, others do get health questionnaires (see Q13) and occasionally some do not qualify. There is no cost to apply if your membership application cannot be accepted. A history of a heart attack or cancer several years ago or other maladies does not automatically signal any issues for SkyMed. Apply – there is nothing to lose (again, no charge if you're not accepted). And as we noted in Q6 there is no age limit to apply and no age limit to renew.

How to Contact Us or Sign Up

Jeff is a SkyMed Ambassador. Reach him directly at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. You can also find him in Facebook Messenger through www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm or you can email him at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. It is always best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above – it's fast & easy.

From:
JMB Communications
Membership Services
support@jmbcommunications.com

25. Never Put Prescriptions in Checked Luggage

Checked luggage can be delayed or lost. Neither happens very often, but if you put valuables or prescription medications in your checked luggage there is a possibility you will lose them.

We always recommend that no one ever put prescriptions or valuables in checked luggage. Put them in Carry-ons that go under the seat in front of you are in the overhead bin above your seat....

26. Keep Valuables Out of Your Rented Car's Trunk

We've seen many people do it as they prepare to venture from their car to go into Philipsburg, to stroll on beaches, to head to nightspots, etc. They put valuables in the trunk of their rented car. That's never a good idea: if we see them do it, so do people who want what you're hiding. Valuables should stay in your hotel safe and never be left in your car trunk....

27. 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. 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?

28. 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, 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.

29. Restaurants of the Week: Two Italians

SXM is loaded with fine Italian restaurants and we've featured many of them right here.

Last Friday for the first time we visited Nonna Rosa Pizza and Pasta Trattoria, a wonderful little Trattoria in Maho Plaza behind the pharmacy and next door to the La Rosa Ristorante. On Saturday we returned to Isola near Hollywood Casino -- two very different and very good restaurants.

Nonna Rosa is a Trattoria in the best tradition. Going to a Trattoria is like visiting someone's home, where you're treated like family and things can get a little noisy at times. There's a menu, of course, but if you don't see what you want and they have the ingredients, they'll make whatever you're looking for. The night we went, Nonna Rosa was out of gnocchi and chicken Marsala was not on the menu: we asked for it anyway, and it was terrific. We also got a large bowl of homemade spaghetti with great traditional tomato sauce.

We became Nonna Rosa devotees that night since Ilene ordered a veggie pizza which she said was outstanding. We regard Nonna Rosa as a hidden gem and urge our readers to try it during their current or next SXM trip. The food is delicious, the service exemplary, and the prices are very reasonable — all in all a great little Trattoria.

We've written about Isola many times here. Isola means island in Italian, and Isola is located in the middle of the doughnut-shaped Simpson Bay resort, next to Hollywood casino - its own island. It is a full-scale Ristorante with a complete bar, entertainment on occasional nights, and a large air-conditioned Dining Room. It has become known for outstanding food, generous portions, and a little bit of noise — easily tolerable since the food is so outstanding.

These are two very different restaurants, offering rather different types of food (true Trattoria homestyle versus fine dining) and both doing an outstanding job in their respective genres. We highly recommend both of these restaurants.

We also suggest you look through our complete list of recently featured restaurants here in our Restaurant of the Week feature to see a number of other fine SXM Italian restaurants.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Nonna Rosa Trattoria; Isola (featured 2/24/20)

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 2/17/20). Open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday.

Sale & Pepe (featured 2/10/20) Cool location among breathtaking megayachts, cool decor, knowledgeable staff, and great menu, service, and food. Sale & Pepe is hitting its stride. Chef Davide Zagami stays mostly in the kitchen ensuring things go just right.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 2/3/20) SkipJack's triumphantly reopened with an entirely new dining deck late in January, 2019. Great place - go! Great staff and superb food in a picture postcard lagoon setting.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 1/27/20: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

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

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

IZI Ristorante Italiano, 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/ 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 (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 (featured 10/28/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Wednesday through Sunday.

Pineapple Pete, 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 4/15/19. Just go....

IZI Ristorante Italiano, 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's Smooth 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.

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

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

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

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

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

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

Jimbo's, 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.

30. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 25,000 SXM tourists who love SXM as much as you do.

Our site is the best place around to ask questions and get answers about SXM -- around the clock. Check it out.

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

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

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

32. Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway

A major promo continues on SkyMed memberships. Not only are all multiyear SkyMed memberships heavily discounted for JMB members, but *when you buy a new multiyear SkyMed membership through us or upgrade your annual SkyMed membership bought from us to a multiyear membership, we will extend your JMB membership on us for the number of years you buy SkyMed.*

Example: Upgrade to or buy a new five-year SkyMed membership through us, and we give you a free five-year

extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership. All you need to do is forward us a copy of the acknowledgement you receive from SkyMed after you buy new or upgrade through us. For info, see skymed.com/jmb but to qualify for these bonuses, you must buy by phoning us at (508) 747-8281 or email Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed. Give us your phone number and time zone and we'll return your call as quickly as we can. Available exclusively to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats.

33. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is www.skymed.com/jmb, now live; please bookmark that and not any other site.

When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone; that way we get credit. It takes about 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently; that way we do get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you.

SkyMed inquiries only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. Thank you. Customer stories are below.

34. Going Somewhere? 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 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: please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site. Thank you.

Customer stories are below.

[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. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

See the [rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)

35. 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 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.

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

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

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

37. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 2/20)

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](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#)

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 & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES:

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A long-time 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 (new)

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)

LAZY LIZARD (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.

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

Sunshine Properties has just joined us.

Monte Verde / Belle Vue (new)

[Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies](#)

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

Updated 2/20

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

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

38. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our 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 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.

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.](#)

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 .

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 Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.**

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at 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. Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, go here: 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; 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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<http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

2/24/20 #V3-1237 1:00 pm AST 2/23

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