

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 4/6/20: Dutch Side Institutes Immediate Shutdown; Above-Average Hurricane Season Forecast; Feds Order Airlines to Pay Refunds; Pandemic's Devastating Impact on Tourism; Hotel/Timeshare Construction Delays; Dealing w/ Immense Stress; [43 Major News Stories This Week]

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Vol. 3, #1243 --- Monday, April 6, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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Important Note:

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

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by close to 340,000 people around the world...

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



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

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:

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-- Above Average Hurricane Season Predicted by Colo. State

- *In US, Feds Order Airlines to Refund Flyers for Cancelled Trips*
- *Airport Reconstruction Saga Lumbers On*

SXM Accommodations:

- *Hotel, Timeshare Construction May Face Delays*

Island Headlines for Tourists:

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- *Dutch side Institutes Immediate Two-Week Shutdown*

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- *Netherlands Shipping 12 Intensive Care Beds to SXM*
- *Pandemic's Devastating Impact on Caribbean Tourism*
- *Dutch side Covid-19 Cases Jump w/ More Expected*
- *French side Caring for Most Vulnerable During Pandemic*
- *Futurist Predicts Future of Travel After Covid*
- *Same-day COVID Testing Now Available in Dutch SXM*
- *Enhanced Security Across The Island Is One Benefit of Covid*
- *Jimbo's Has Closed Forever (Sort of)*
- *SXM Restaurants Ordered Closed Even for Take-out*
- *Get a Little Bit of the Island in Your Home, NOW*
- *Help in Coping With Immense Stress from Covid 19*

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- *Please Help Us Continue to Help You...*

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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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- *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*

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43 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml 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 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:

In subscriber copies only.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

In subscriber copies only.

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](#)

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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

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

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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 agents](#)

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LEAD STORY: DUTCH SIDE ORDERS COMPLETE SHUTDOWN w/ 6 HOURS NOTICE

- 14. First Responders Get New Platinum-Status Discounts from JMB
- 15. Island 92 Needs Your Help - Here's Why
- 16. Dutch Side Planning Shutdown (see late-breaking lead story, above)
- 17. COVID Reveals Mammoth Gaps in Global Pandemic Preparedness
- 18. Netherlands Shipping 12 Intensive Care Beds to SXM
- 19. Same-day COVID Testing Now Available in Dutch SXM
- 20. Enhanced Security Across The Island Is One Benefit of Covid
- 21. Pandemic's Devastating Impact on Caribbean Tourism
- 22. Dutch Side Covid-19 Cases Jump w/ More Expected
- 23. French side Caring for Most Vulnerable During Pandemic
- 24. Futurist Predicts Future of Travel After Covid
- 25. Jimbo's Has Closed Forever (Sort of)
- 26. SXM Restaurants Ordered Closed Even for Take-out
- 27. Get a Little Bit of the Island in Your Home, NOW
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- 37. Going Anywhere? SkyMed's Guaranteed Renewable Annual Membership is Just \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available
- 38. Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?
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- 40. Please Patronize our Sponsors
- 41. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

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- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- 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. Above Average Hurricane Season Predicted by Colo. State

Hurricane experts at Colorado State University, often featured as weather gurus by media outlets across the USA, have now issued their preliminary forecast for the 2020 hurricane season. It calls for above-normal activity in the Atlantic basin — an unwelcome revelation for residents along the US Gulf Coast, the Atlantic coast, and Atlantic Canada — and of course for everyone throughout the Caribbean.

An above normal hurricane season was also predicted recently by our go-to hurricane specialist/whether expert Meteorologist Rob Lightbown, head of CrownWeather.com, who is also chief meteorologist for Jeff Sochrin's Island92 radio station and island92.com. We published information about Rob's forecast here in *SXM Weekly News* within the last few weeks, and we will be publishing more information from him as we get closer to the season. It begins June 1 and ends November 30.

Much more on the Colorado state predictions is here, in their [complete report](#). Clicking that link will download a PDF of the report.

2. In US, Feds Order Airlines to Refund Flyers for Cancelled Trips

This does not apply to trips made overseas on foreign carriers, only to trips on flights aboard US-based carriers. Here are [the details](#).

3. Airport Reconstruction Saga Lumbers On

Early in September 2017, with sustained winds of 185 mph and recorded gusts well over 200 mph, hurricane Irma pummeled both sides of the island, showing no mercy to SXM's Princess Juliana airport.

Air travel to the island resumed only weeks later, with arrivals and departures being handled out of tents near the East end of the badly damaged terminal building.

Once departure and arrival facilities were combined and restored onto the first floor of the terminal building, the tents were taken down. Now, more than two and a half years since Irma struck, the still-not-fully-restored airport is going into what it calls "hibernation" thanks to Covid 19, which has virtually stopped all commercial flights to and from SXM.

Restoration of the second floor, once a showplace with many shops and restaurants and the usual assortment of jet bridges (jetways), is nowhere near complete. In fact, mitigation of mold on the second floor, generated from hurricane Maria which hit SXM with heavy rains only a few weeks after Irma's visit, is still not finished either.

The airport is saying that while in hibernation, mold remediation will be undertaken and further activity to move the airport toward full restoration will get underway. We're not going to get into why all this wasn't completed within a year after Irma struck. Suffice it to say that we know of no one on the island who is happy with the situation.

The government says that progress will continue and it has given a *non-quick* estimate of when this will all finally be completed. Those who are looking for an expeditious introduction of preclearance in SXM will be disappointed. Much more on the "hibernation" is [here](#).

The end of next year is possible but not very likely.

4. "Social Distancing" Impossible on Busy Airplane Flights

As we've reported and as you've experienced, some major airlines — Spirit and American come to mind — have chosen to place passengers in airplane cabins much like sardines are packaged in cans, much to the consternation of beleaguered airline passengers.

Once flights to SXM resume from the US — which may or may not be in May — it will be interesting to see if airlines choose to do anything about the routine way in which they violate social distancing guidelines from the US CDC and other sources. Staying 6 feet away from other passengers aboard an aircraft is currently impossible: even 6 inches would be generous compared to what airlines currently provide.

Although it's true that most airplanes are being flown with perhaps 15% occupancy, that will change once flights open up and diehard fans of SXM return there. The novel coronavirus knows nothing of schedules by mortals. When infected people talk or breathe, they emit droplets containing the virus which can infect others less than 6 feet away and hang around in the air for as long as a couple of hours — not a good thing if it happens aboard a crowded airliner, filtered air notwithstanding. What can airlines do to solve this completely? We suspect the answer is probably nothing.

5. "BumpySkies.com" Predicts Flight Calmness

When our daughter has been hopscotch in the world doing her global sales shtick, while working in my home office in Massachusetts I've often watch the progress of her flight so I could tell her whether her trip would be smooth or bumpy, as well as whether it would be on time or delayed. I used flightaware.com and various wind and weather online information sources to gather the information.

Now, a new site delivers much the same information, though currently only for domestic US flights. Since so many thousands of Americans normally fly to and from overseas destinations, it wouldn't surprise us if at some point the site is expanded to deliver a more global spectrum of information. For now, though, if you are flying domestically, it's something you should know about.

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. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

Blank hurricane tracking charts similar to those that have been used by the National Hurricane Center for many years are now available for download [here](#) (that's the NHC download site).

8. 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..

9. Hotel, Timeshare Construction May Face Delays

The two largest and most important construction projects on the island, at least from the perspective of timeshare owners, are the rebuilding and renovations of both Royal Palm Beach Resort and Flamingo Beach Resort in Simpson Bay, near Simpson Bay resort. Both projects are close to completion — just a few months from when the construction battalions now working on the site turn it back to the resort for finalization and check out, after which it should be ready for timeshare owners.

Although the resorts say they are on time, none of us knows what Covid 19's schedule will be over the next several months. We also don't know what effect that schedule may have on the plans for Diamond Royal Palm and Diamond Flamingo to open as scheduled sometime late during the summer.

The resorts -- and timeshare owners at both of these resorts -- wanted reopenings to be completed months ago. But the extent of the damage in both resorts required a virtual tear down, where for a while nothing was left but the skeleton of the original buildings. Completion was a complex venture.

We will keep our eye on both of these Diamond projects as well as on the big "Westin" project on Dawn beach, Planet Hollywood next to Divi little Bay, and another new hotel planned for the Indigo Bay area in Cay Bay.

As always, we'll keep you informed.

10. 2021 Rentals Available Now at EverythingSXM.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters have begun to post 2021 timeshare rentals on our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com. Much more information about available rentals is on our timeshare rentals and sales page on that site. It is certainly not too early to start making reservations for 2021. Also please see the unnumbered story at the beginning of section 3 in this edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

11. 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.

12. 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

13. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

We are working 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 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

DUTCH SIDE ORDERS COMPLETE SHUTDOWN, OFFERS ONLY 6 HOURS NOTICE

Although it was hardly a secret, Dutch side government officials nonetheless shocked many Dutch side residents Saturday evening when they ordered a virtually immediate two-week shutdown / curfew with only six hours notice.

These are the key provisions of the shutdown:

[EXECUTIVE SUMMARY]

Full shutdown for two weeks. No one allowed to be on road as of 12:00am Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Exempted from shutdown:

1. Governor
2. Government Officials
3. Medical personal [sic!]
4. Media Outlets
5. Garbage services
6. Shipping and freight companies [7? -Ed.]
8. Pharmacies

Able to operate in case of emergencies:

1. Supermarkets
2. Gas stations (two will remain open only for emergency vehicles)
(Govt. of St. Maarten)

[COMPLETE TEXT:]

Mandatory Business Closures as per National Decree State of Emergency 2020/605 effective April 5, 2020:

All businesses are to remain closed to the public, with the exception of:

1. Medical Emergency & Paramedic Services (EMS)
2. Pharmacies (based on regular schedule for Sundays and holidays)
3. Hotels, guesthouses, yachting agents and marinas, which still have guests requiring service.
4. Security companies, which must continue to provide security services to businesses.
5. Media outlets
6. Garbage collection services
7. Essential Government Services for emergencies only.
8. Remote Technical customer support services may continue for telecommunication (i.e. TELEM, UTS) and utility companies (GEBE).
9. Freight services (offloading, on loading and related services) may continue at the Airport and Harbor. Deliveries and/or pick-ups are allowed for Government Services or one of the Essential Services allowed by Government (e.g Medical Institutions, Food Suppliers etc.)
10. Shipping & cargo companies, incl. FedEx & DHL, may make emergency deliveries only for medical, pharmaceutical products & supplies (for Government and/or for Essential services determined by Government).
11. The below services must be closed to the public, but remain available in cases of emergencies:
 - a. Grocery Stores
 - b. Bakeries
 - c. Hardware stores
 - d. Electronic stores
 - e. Notaries
 - f. Medical Laboratory services
 - g. Medical practitioners
 - h. Dental Clinics
 - i. Veterinary Clinics
12. All Construction projects must cease, with the exception of the COVID-related construction at SMMC.
13. The following companies must be closed to the public, but may provide services to essential/ emergency services which is arranged by the emergency/essential services in advance:
 - a. Restaurants
 - b. Commercial laundry services
 - c. Maintenance & Repair services. This includes all maintenance and repair services related to buildings, appliances, fixtures, vehicles and vessels. Including, but not limited to automotive garages, tire repair services, plumbing and electrical services, A/C installation and AB 2020, no. 19 6 repair. These services may open for the purpose of the aforementioned based solely for Emergency cases.
 - d. Only Two Gas stations and Suppliers of fuel (ULG & Diesel) are allowed to open namely, Sol Sucker Garden & Bush Road Gas Station (i.e. Bunker Point, N.V.) daily from 9 am until 5 p.m. to supply vehicles of essential and emergency services.
 - e. Suppliers of cooking gas are only allowed to provide delivery service only for emergency services (including for private use).

Essential staff of the businesses mentioned above must be in the possession of a valid disaster pass. In absence of a disaster pass, the manager of the entity may request a waiver from the Chief of Police, Carl John by means of a letter drafted by the business, requesting permission, which will be stamped and signed by KPSM.

[End]

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As always, SXM Weekly News will follow up on this as necessary and our Everything SXM Facebook Group will continue to post news as it happens.

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**** Unprecedented SkyMed Medevac Event Extended to 4/30****

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 (frequently updated):

<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) protection 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/April Madness Sale:

From now through April 30, 2020, here's what our March/April 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 (1), 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 directly through us between February 21, 2020, and April 30, 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. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First

Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingxsm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

15. Island 92 Needs Your Help - Here's Why

Island 92 -- our on-air partner in SXM for more than 10 years -- needs your help to stay on the air.

What follows is from Jeffrey Sochrin, "Dr. Soc," Managing Director of Island92:

The impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic touches everyone, and our top priority at Island 92 is that our listeners around the world remain safe and healthy during these difficult times. Please practice social distancing and "STAY HOME" and be safe! We're in this together and hope you're all doing okay.

We have a tough message to share with all of you today – we're not doing so well . . . We appreciate that you need us during times of crisis - communication is king, and local radio is more important than ever. But we need you, too. Island 92 normally is able to provide you with quality, professional programming and timely reporting of developing events that you need urgently during these challenging times through the support of advertisers. Unfortunately, many of our loyal advertisers have suspended their campaigns due to their temporary closures, and we totally understand and support those decisions. We have done all that we can to survive - we have eliminated all discretionary spending and our devoted staff currently is volunteering just to keep the station on the air for you.

Here is where you can help: You can ensure that Island 92 – and our professional reporting, a vital voice for Sint Maarten – survives. We know times are tough for everyone, so we ask our local and global audience for any amount, every dollar will have an impact! Please help keep Island 92 on the air!

Contributions can be made through PayPal to soc@island92.com. For other methods, simply contact Dr. Soc at that email address, or call +1-786-693-9200 or +1-721-586-6634.

Island 92 has served St. Maarten and the surrounding islands diligently, professionally and with integrity for almost 20 years, and we hope to continue to do so for many more years to come. The current worldwide crisis has hit St. Maarten extremely hard, yet we remain committed to providing accurate and timely information to St. Maarten and the region, along with great ROCK, BLUES & GOOD TIME music!

We can do this together. THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR FAMILY. We appreciate any contribution – Every contribution will have a significant impact, no amount is too small! THANK YOU!

Dr. Soc
Island 92 (91.9) FM
www.island92.com

16. Dutch Side Planning Shutdown (see late-breaking lead story)

It now appears imminent that the Dutch side of the island is going to close down completely — a situation in which all Dutch side residents, excluding emergency responders such as police and fire, are required to stay home for a set period of time, probably at least two weeks since that's the incubation period for the novel coronavirus. The date of the shutdown has not yet been announced....

Here's the latest news we have on the shutdown. There will be breaking news on this topic over the next few days. See that news as it happens by joining our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) now. Entrance to the group requires you to answer three short vetting questions, which is quick and easy. We'll also keep you posted about this topic here in SXM Weekly News, however because of the urgency of the situation we urge you to become a member of our everything SXM Facebook group so you actually see this news in detail as it happens.

Here is [more information from SXM's Prime Minister](#), Silveria Jacobs.

17. COVID Reveals Mammoth Gaps in Global Pandemic Preparedness

If anything positive emerges from the current Covid 19 global pandemic, it may be the realization that all the nations of the world must work together to be sure every country is prepared to do whatever needs to be done in its own enlightened self-interest and in the interest of all the other nations to stop future pandemics before they start.

USA Today reported on Friday in its weekend edition that US businesses made enormous profits selling facemasks, gowns, and ventilators to China during the first couple of months of this year. Since the US stockpile of all of these items was minuscule, allowing those sales to complete has endangered the lives of countless thousands of Americans from coast-to-coast. Conflicting, confusing messaging from world leaders which often has disagreed with expert advice has aggravated the situation which already involved mixed messages and an unresponsive and sometimes antagonistic attitude toward states facing life-or-death shortages of critical material.

We should all hope and expect that whoever our future world leaders are, they ensure the safety of every American — and, indeed, every citizen of the world — going forward. Everyone has the same right to government competence at stopping pandemics before they start and ensuring that should pandemics happen, they are stopped before they can kill every human being on the planet.

Despite the fact that in the US alone in a best case scenario this pandemic is expected to claim between 100 and 240,000 lives, no one has even mentioned the worst case scenario which could be infinitely worse. Plans should already have been in place to assume the worst place scenario could happen at any time. Yet, clearly such plans do not exist, or they would have been seamlessly executed to the benefit of everyone.

Those are chilling gaps that must be corrected.

18. Netherlands Shipping 12 Intensive Care Beds to SXM

It may not sound like much to Americans who are hearing about a million people infected with the novel coronavirus in the USA right now, but to the Dutch side of the island — which currently has only two ventilators, both of which are in use for non-Covid patients — the impending arrival of 12 intensive care beds from the Netherlands is a big deal which will go a long way to help the island make it through this catastrophic pandemic.

Those beds are on the way and [here's the story](#).

19. Same-Day COVID Testing Now Available in SXM

It appears that one of the reasons figures for how many people in SXM had Covid 19 were so "good" earlier was that testing wasn't being widely performed, and when it was, getting the results was not a quick process.

Now that has changed with the advent of same-day Covid testing results being available on the Dutch side of the island. Even if the news about Covid sufferers in SXM is pretty much the same as elsewhere, nonetheless it is far better for the island to have timely information on Covid and be able to act on it at once rather than have to wait for results from somewhere overseas.

Here is more on this [vastly improved, faster testing capability](#).

20. Enhanced Security Across The Island Is One Benefit of Covid

Cameras posted at border points on both sides of the island some time ago foreshadowed the possibility of better

cross-border cooperation for police enforcement activities. The arrest a week ago of an alleged murderer in Marigot in a joint operation by police from the French and Dutch sides also was a good sign.

Now, Dutch and French side police are at times executing cooperative patrols on both sides of the island.

When these patrols are executed on the French side, members of the French side Gendarmerie are in the lead car followed by Korps Politie. When joint patrols are underway on the Dutch side, the lead car is from the Dutch side police force, Korps Politie, followed by members of the Gendarmerie.

When joint patrols are not underway, these exercises enable police from each side of the island to help the other in Emergencies, should that be required. Right now, the focus is on minimizing travel and convincing people to stay at home which is what they have been ordered to do by the governments on both sides of the island.

Here's [more](#).

21. Pandemic's Devastating Impact on Caribbean Tourism

The New York Times, which this journalist has long regarded as the best newspaper in the world, published a brilliant article late last week about the Covid 19 pandemic's devastating impact on Caribbean tourism.

Although the article touched on the situations on a few islands, it focused most clearly on St. Maarten, where it talked about the situation of Emil Lee, an American who moved here many years ago and who is one of the principal owners of Princess Heights Condominiums at Dawn beach and who has served in the Dutch side government.

We strongly recommend you spend some time reading [this very well written story](#).

22. Dutch Side Covid-19 Cases Jump w/ More Expected

Any specifics we cite here will likely change by the time you read this article. Nonetheless, additional testing is being undertaken on the Dutch side of the island now and the results are being publicized more quickly than before.

Bottom line, the Dutch side now has a significant number of confirmed cases of Covid 19. For details, see the latest post in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Every few days, we publish the latest information from the Dutch side about the number of people who have been tested, the numbers of positive and negative results, cases awaiting results, number of people quarantined, and other related figures.

The heads of government on both the Dutch side and the French side continue to double down to get people to stay home unless they are out for a critically important reason that is approved by either government. Travel between sides of the island is prohibited except for acceptable reasons. Locals must carry appropriate paperwork showing who they are and where they are going and why. There are very few reasons the government tolerates people being out of their homes. People have been told by the government to remain isolated so that any suspicious health situations can be detected, examined, and properly diagnosed and acted upon so they don't spread the virus.

Again, for the latest information on cases on the Dutch side and on the French side, please see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

[This](#) is a recent article on the numbers.

23. French Side Caring for Vulnerable During Pandemic

This interesting [story](#) shows what the French side government is doing to care for the most vulnerable citizens there during this Pandemic.

24. Futurist Predicts Future of Travel After Covid

A futurist working with Fodor's, the global travel media company, offers some interesting predictions concerning the future of travel after Covid. Here is [that story](#).

Disclosure: I recently worked with Fodor's on their new 1100+ page Essential Caribbean travel guide, writing the entire sections regarding St. Maarten, St. Martin, Anguilla, St. Eustatius (Statia), and St. Barth.

25. Jimbo's Has Closed Forever (Sort of)

Jimbo's TexMex restaurant and Mesquite grill was scheduled to close March 31 with a big bash. Unfortunately Covid 19 had a much bigger impact and that last day of March official closing party never happened. After roughly 18 years in business, the owners of the property on which Jimbo's has stood for all these years plans to tear down that beautiful property and build something else there. We don't know what.

Jimbo told us that he is looking for another affordable property in Simpson Bay that he can call home; we'll publish that information once it happens. However the Jimbo's we know and have loved for all these years is gone forever. If Jimbo does find a new property and opens a new restaurant there, it may or may not be known as Jimbo's but it will not be TexMex, the concept of his just-closed Jimbo's in Simpson Bay.

There of course is much more to the Jimbo story than just this restaurant. Sometime down the line, he can tell you how he arrived here, what his career before was, what happened when he first arrived that convinced him to stay, his original "restaurant" in Grand Case, and more.

We do know what the concept will be when he relocates and we do think it will go gangbusters in SXM (that is not a hint). He told us only if we promised to keep the information confidential, which we will do. We're looking forward to seeing the new concept come alive too.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

26. SXM Restaurants Ordered Closed Even for Take-out

Restaurateurs are a rare breed. Good ones are preordained to be thinking about ensuring quality of ingredients, dependable sourcing, perfect or nearly perfect work in the kitchen, great presentation, top-notch customer service, etc. It's an all-consuming passion.

Several days ago, the Dutch side decided that the takeout option for restaurants there wasn't working as an effort to stop the Covid 19 virus from spreading, so it slammed the door shut on restaurants being open just for take out and closed them totally. The same thing had already been done on the French side.

We talked with several island restaurateurs over the last week. "I've gotten to do things in my house that I wanted to do for years and never had time for," exclaimed one young woman who owns a highly successful Simpson Bay restaurant. When we visited her at her condo, she quickly took off and dove into the pool there, an indulgence she seldom otherwise would have time for. She was also planning changes in her home - another new indulgence.

A husband and wife team who own multiple businesses on the island were trying to figure out what they would be doing when home together. "I'm going to make sure he has plenty of books," she told us; "I don't want him to be bored."

Another manager of a very successful Italian restaurant — who has been on the go for years — simply told us, "I've never had so much consecutive quality time with my wife and kids as I've had the last several days. Really, for me, right now, it's a blessing."

27. Get a Little Bit of SXM in Your Home, Now

[This is our all-new copyrighted purple sand chair SXM Euro Oval](#). Big shipment just arrived in our Plymouth offices. You can now order them -- they're the successor to our former green "twin palms" SXM Euro Oval.

Price, \$7 each or **THREE for \$15** (multiple orders of three welcome). Pay by PayPal payable to jeff@jmbcommunications.com or by check payable to JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812 USA. INCLUDE YOUR NAME, SHIP-TO ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, & PHONE NUMBER IN YOUR ORDER. All checks MUST be US dollar checks drawn on US banks. Shipped ONLY to USA & Canada addresses, Put it on your car, on mirrors at home, on smooth-sided luggage, over your husband's mouth (just kidding), etc. Fun item for everyone who loves SXM like YOU do! =====PHONE ORDERING IS NOW AVAILABLE TOO! 508-747-8281, 8am - 8pm EDT daily. Secure line, please leave all required info.

The link at the beginning of this story takes you to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If you have not yet joined, do so now; it's a community of SXM fans like you.

28. Help in Coping With Enormous Stress from Covid 19

This is well worth your attention whenever the current state of the world gets to you. Click for [help](#). This is for real...

29. Please Help Us Continue to Help You:

JMB needs your help to continue bringing you SXM Weekly News as we have faithfully since 1992; fund our member (and reader) parties once Corona is gone; continue constantly updating our working on our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); and keep the lights on here and food on the table.

Here's how:

All we ask is for you to join our [JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program](#), or order some of our new [purple sand chair SXM Euro Ovals \(story 27\)](#), or [look into getting SkyMed medevac protection from us by checking out our own SkyMed website](#) then phoning us at 508-747 for answers to questions or to sign up. Please also see story 39 for some great news for first responders (police, fire, EMT), nurses, and other front-line hospital personnel.

As always we are all grateful for your help during these trying times as we continue to work for you every single day.

30. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ :::::::::: Updated 3/2020

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.

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

We are following the White House Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020.

We have team members fully functional and working from home.

We are all connected on line and have access to all programs necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office or from home.

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

SkyMed Travel reservation # 1-800-568-8994 is open during regular business hours 8am to 5pm (MST). Messages can be left off hours.

Resources to help you:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/travel

Canadian government updates www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) www.cbp.gov

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

SkyMed Travel reservations www.skymedtravel.com or email info@skymedtravel.com

SkyMed Member Services **1-480-946-5188** or **1-800-475-9633** or memberservices@skymed.com

Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help as much as we can. Regular member services are being conducted everyday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the SkyMed Member family wherever you are in this time of uncertainty.

*Eleanore Klein, President
SkyMed Group of Companies*

From JMB:

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

31. SXM Vacation Giveaway Continues; Drawing Postponed

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.

The giveaway celebrates our site surpassing 6.6 million visits and moving toward 7 million. The weeks we give away will be handed out to randomly picked entries. The drawing date has now been deferred until late 2020. All vacations 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 a zipline trip, a car rental, and possibly more.

How to Enter: 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?

32. SkyMed For Upcoming Car Travel: 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.

33. Restaurant of the Week:

We are temporarily discontinuing selecting a new restaurant of the week until tourist flights to SXM resume, which hopefully can happen within the next several weeks.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

White Swan Chinese Restaurant (featured 3/16/20) SXM's very best, delicious, authentic food, attentive service, generous portions, and reasonable prices. We loved it...

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 3/9/20). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 3/2/20). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

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.**

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.

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

34. 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.

35. 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).

36. 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 is story 29.

37. 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.

**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](#)

38. Are You Military, First Responder, or Nurse?

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.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingxm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

39. 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.

40. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 3/11/20)

AMUSEMENTS

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

BOAT TOURS

Celine Charters (Enigma)

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

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

Topper's Restaurant

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](#)

[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 3/11/20

**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.

41. 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://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 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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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)

4/6/20 #V3-1243 8:30 pm EST 4/4/20

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