

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 4/13/20: UA Refunds; AA Changes Flight Schedules, Doesn't Tell Passengers; Cruise Lines' Dark Future; Boeing; 2020 Hurricanes; CBP Stops Passport Services; Covid; SXM Shutdown; Grocery Deliveries; Daily Herald Stops Publishing; [37 Major News Stories This Week]

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**Vol. 3, #1244 --- Monday, April 13, 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](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

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

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

**IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored send-only email address. For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#) at the end of this newsletter.**

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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...***

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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](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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**Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

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

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

**SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:**

**Published editions only**

**SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

**Published editions only**

**Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

## Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm>

### "Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

### Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

### Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

### Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

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

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- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)**

**How To Get a GROWING LIST of 300+ Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits**

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the \*secret\* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

**Not a member yet? See [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...**

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

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. Some Good Prices for SXM Round Trips

Within the last week — reflecting gradually improving news about the status of the Covid Pandemic particularly in the United States — SXM devotees have started to make SXM travel reservations for later this year and into winter 2021. The good news: prices of trips from some cities in the US are down significantly from recent levels, an attempt by airlines to put more people in their airplanes.

To be sure, this is a tenuous situation — especially for people making reservations in the relatively near term. No one knows how long the current air travel shutdown on SXM will last or exactly when flights will resume, although early May has been mentioned in the past. The number of Covid 19 cases in SXM continues to increase, as it does elsewhere. That's why Americans were urged to leave SXM weeks ago, and were told at that time — and have been told since — that it is not known when they will be able to return to the US if they didn't return when advised.

Not all future flights are being offered at bargain rates, either. For example, passengers booking on fall JetBlue weekend nonstops from Boston will see that those flights are at their normal rates: not discounted. JetBlue should seriously consider discounting those flights and notifying SXM passengers about them, since the airline gave itself a major league black eye last month when it canceled flights returning to the US and did not quickly notify passengers, putting them at a disadvantage for rebooking. Communications were poor.

We expect that pent-up demand for trips to SXM, along with increased availability of "beds for heads" on the island in the coming months (including the reopening of Flamingo Beach Resort and Royal Palm Beach by this summer or fall) will swell the numbers of visitors coming to the island late this year and early next. Plus, airlines will probably be doing some heavy competition to get those people on their airplanes.

Of course, everything hinges on the battle against Covid 19 and the degree of safety with which people believe they can travel absent any vaccine for the next year or more, since that's how long development and deployment of an effective vaccine is expected to take.

We'll keep you posted, as always.

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## 2. UA Passengers Want Cash Refunds & May Sue to Get Them

Apparently, United Airlines passengers whose flights have been canceled due to Covid are getting increasingly agitated about the airline's intransigence about giving them cash refunds. Sources tell us that certain groups of passengers are in contact with attorneys to explore the possibility of suing the airline to get the refunds they demand and are convinced the airline must pay them according to current regulations and directives.

One of the motivating factors here, we are told, is that there is increased concern on the part of some United Airlines passengers that the airline may not survive the current Covid financial nightmare. All airlines have been hemorrhaging cash thanks to nearly empty airliners flying across the country. Though jet fuel is cheap, currently at least, flying empty airplanes is a great way to lose money. Consequently, no domestic US airlines are currently flush with cash, a fact which particularly worries passengers who have not received refunds or whose cancellations with United or other airlines were put into a "travel bank" by an airline instead of being refunded.

We will continue to watch this story as and if it develops further. .

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## 3. AA Changing Flights, Times, & Seats on Future Flights - and Not Saying

Over the last several years, we have seen more complaints concerning American Airlines' ongoing practice of canceling or rescheduling flights and not telling passengers than similar complaints from all other airlines combined.

It's happening again -- right now.

If you have American Airlines flights scheduled in May or after, check your reservations *now*. It's entirely possible that your flights in May have been canceled, rescheduled, or otherwise changed. It's also likely that your seats were

changed, and if you're traveling with someone else you may not be sitting together on any new or rescheduled flights.

We always advise passengers on all airlines to verify flights frequently during the weeks before they are scheduled. That is especially important now, when there are no flights to SXM and the date when they will be resumed is unset.

You cannot count on American Airlines to notify you of flight changes on a timely basis.

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## 4. AA, others Offering Greater Ticketing Flexibility

Virtually all domestic airlines in the US are now offering increased flexibility to passengers buying tickets. That flexibility includes free flight changes and in some cases refunds on canceled flights, though the policies don't necessarily tell you clearly when those refunds will be received.

Check your airline's website — or emails from them, if you are on your favorite airline's mailing list — for details. Be sure you know what happens in case of cancellation *before you buy tickets from any airline*.

[Here's more on AA.](#)

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## 5. LIAT Stops Passenger Flights, for Now

Thanks to the Covid Pandemic, Liat airlines (Leeward Islands Air Transport), which has been teetering on the brink of insolvency for years, has finally stopped passenger flights — temporarily, it says.

Although Richard Branson is said to have had some interest in taking over the airline and morphing it into something bigger, there is no current information to indicate that such a move is in the offing. The airline has been owned for years by an assortment of island nations and has never been known for its dynamism, innovation, or schedule consciousness. In fact, some people claim that "Liat" is an acronym for *leave island any time*.

Here are the [details](#) on this latest news.

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## 6. Have Cruise Lines Finally Slit Their Corporate Throats?

Although millions of people worldwide love cruising, nonetheless the attractiveness of cruising has been eroding thanks to numerous reports on multiple cruise lines of sickness from Norovirus, ships that were dead in the water thanks to mechanical issues, and during the Covid Pandemic, numerous deaths on multiple ships around the world.

To be sure, the Pandemic is certainly not the fault of cruise lines. Nonetheless, the fact is that social distancing aboard cruise ships doesn't happen. Nonetheless, in certain circumstances cruise ships can and have become loud, expensive, and crowded petri dishes which facilitate the spread of contagious diseases in general and airborne viruses in particular.

Cruise ship companies have disaster plans, as do airlines. But none of them apparently had any plan for dealing with a global pandemic. The current pandemic seems to have made things worse for passengers and for the cruise lines themselves.

Have cruise lines finally slit their corporate throats? That's not likely because of all the millions of cruise fans out there. However, cruise lines have serious work ahead of them in making sure their ships are safe in every respect — especially in terms of medical care and passenger safety from contagious diseases.

Bear this in mind as well. Cruise lines have a policy of throwing people off their ships if they are too sick to be cared for on board. They routinely do this — regardless of where the ship is in its itinerary and regardless of whether qualified care is available at the next port. We have published reports within the last year about one such incident where an elderly couple on their last cruise was thrown off when one of the people became seriously ill.

Cruise lines do have a long way to go in both meeting their responsibilities to passengers and in regaining confidence in the integrity of their services.



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## 7. Badly Blundering Boeing May Not Deserve a Federal Bailout

Long regarded as the world's foremost manufacturer of commercial airplanes, Boeing has made many mistakes over the years, possibly the worst of which regarded its 737 Max jet aircraft, now grounded worldwide after two fatal accidents killed 356 passengers more than a year ago.

Boeing was considering going after a federal bailout after its business collapsed for a second time (the first time regarding the 737 Max) thanks to the Covid Pandemic and the apparent deferment of many aircraft orders because of it and the 737 Max debacle. Now, according to some sources, badly blundering Boeing may not deserve a federal bailout. Nonetheless, President Trump appears ready to give them billions more in aid beyond what they were entitled to in the first Stimulus bill, now signed into law.

Here's [more](#).

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## 8. Hurricane Names: Season is 6 Weeks Away

As we've reported in recent weeks, the 2020 hurricane season is expected to yield an above average number of storms, named storms, and major hurricanes. The season is only six weeks away; it starts June 1 and ends November 30, only about six weeks away.

Here are the 2020 hurricane season storm names: Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, and Wilfred.

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## 9. US CBP Cuts Passport Services, for Now

The US State Department has cut passport services temporarily. Applications and renewals that are already in its system and approved will be processed as usual, and documents will be mailed to passport holders. But new applications for passports and new passport renewals, for now, will not be processed until this temporary hold has been lifted. That is unlikely until America opens up again which could be a number of weeks away - or longer. If you have applied for Global Entry and have not yet been approved, we suggest you contact Global Entry to see what's happening there. Our sense is that Global Entry is also highly likely to face the same kind of delays. See more [here](#).

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## 10. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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

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

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



My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

More stories are below.

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## **Changing Your Email Address?**

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email  
and Sign Up Your New One  
for your **SXM Weekly News** subscription  
Quickly and Easily  
at our Site: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

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## **11. 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).

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

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

**SkyMed Travel** offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 115% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

**Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website**

**Supporters members and now for *Weekly News* readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.**

You won't be disappointed.

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

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

### **13. 2021 Rentals Available Now at [EverythingSXM.com](http://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](http://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*.

### **14. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

### **15. 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**

## 16. 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](#).

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

**Please do NOT unsubscribe from this list; doing so will terminate your subscription to SXM Weekly News.**

**Get your "66" with SkyMed --  
YOUR ROADMAP TO SAFETY  
=====IMPORTANT TIME-SENSITIVE OFFER=====**

SkyMed will host a one hour GO TO MEETING presentation on **April 15 at 11am Pacific time**. You may have missed attending a SkyMed presentation event because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now you can attend a very special one hour presentation in the comfort of your own home and earn a terrific bonus in the process.

Watch on your computer and learn about the importance of at home or away protection with a SkyMed membership.

### **GET your 66 ---**

A FIVE year membership plus a 'SIX month EXTRA bonus'!

### **THE BONUS perk:**

New members signing up for a FIVE Year ULTIMATE within 24 hours of being on the SkyMed GO TO MEETING presentation will receive a SIX month additional bonus.

### **The EXTRA Bonus perk:**

Attention new and existing members: If you refer a non member to this upcoming call you as the member will receive an additional SIX month bonus if your referral purchases a five year plan.

**Space is limited -- contact your representative to confirm your meeting today:**

**SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger**  
**508-747-8281**  
**[www.skymed.com/JMB](http://www.skymed.com/JMB)**  
**[jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com)**

Please use the above email address or phone number to contact Jeff directly and reserve your spot in this coming Wednesday's WEBINAR. Email replies to [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) MAY NOT BE SEEN. Thank you.

**\*\* Unprecedented SkyMed Medevac Event Ends 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

All of the above bonuses apply even if you get the "66" bonus noted in the above lead story in this section. Call us at the above number to sign up by phone.

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## **17. 50 Covid-19 Cases Currently on Dutch Side**

An official report issued by the Dutch side late last week stated that there are currently 50 Covid 19 cases there.

We routinely post information about numbers of cases, numbers of people in isolation or quarantine, and additional information about the effect of the Covid 19 pandemics on both the Dutch and French sides of the island in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which we urge you to join if you are not a member already. The latest information on Covid 19's effects is published on arrival on that FB page, which in normal times (and even now) posts lots of SXM pictures, comments, information exchanges, answers to questions, and more about the island around-the-clock. It currently has about 26,000 members. When it reaches 27,000 it will have tripled its membership in just the last three years.

Here's more on the [Dutch side Covid statistics](#).

## 18. Could SXM's Two-Week Shutdown Last Three Months?

As most of our readers are well aware, SXM is currently in the middle of a two-week shutdown. With the advent of online ordering and delivery of food orders from many local grocery stores (started by Carrefour and originally delivered by Domino's Pizza along with a free small pizza), going to the grocery store is no longer an excuse for breaking the curfew/stay-at-home order. It has always appeared that the shutdown would be extended, although the duration of the extension has never been clear since the future path of the pandemic on the island has also not been crystal-clear.

In some foreign nations, there have been three month shutdowns. SXM's economy depends on tourism, which has come to a screeching halt thanks to Covid. As you'll see in story 20, at least 50% layoffs are expected in the hospitality industry on the island, the focal point of almost all jobs there. The stay-at-home order means that virtually everybody on the island, except a small number of essential services providers, is home anyway.

When a decision has been made and announced to extend the shutdown, we will post it at once in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) which we urge you to join. The news will be posted there as and when it happens and as always, all the news of importance will always be published here in *SXM Weekly News*.

Could SXM's two-week shutdown last three months? We hope that won't be necessary. Please stay tuned.

Here's [more](#).

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## 19. SXM's Mandatory Qrntine May Go to 21 Days

The mandatory quarantine for people who have exhibited symptoms of Covid 19 or who have been exposed to it is now 14 days. On the Dutch side, however, some people have come down with the disease past the 14 day quarantine period.

Consequently, Dutch side Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs is now saying she may extend the quarantine from 14 days to 21. As of press time, that decision had not yet been made. If and when it happens — and right now, it seems likely — we will publish it both here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 20. Grocery Delivery Not Warmly Greeted by All

You can rest assured that the vast majority of Dutch side residents were relieved to hear several days back that Carrefour was making available food deliveries through the use of Domino's pizza vehicles — and were delighted that their orders would be delivered with a free Domino's pizza.

But with a minimum charge of \$75, which had to be paid by debit or credit card, it was impossible for everyone to take advantage of the offer. Some people on the island don't have credit or debit cards and others don't have \$75 in cash available if they want to pool their order with a neighbor.

The Freegan food pantry solves that problem by giving free food to the needy. You'll find more about them here. You will also find posts from them in our everything SXM Facebook group, we can learn much more about what they do and how they do it.

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## 21. Daily Herald Temporarily Stops Publishing

The SXM Daily Herald, the dominant newspaper on the island and the leading newspaper in the Northeast Caribbean, has temporarily stopped publishing. Not only does the curfew make it difficult for them to publish, but also the shutdown of virtually every business on the island and the edict for people to stay home means that picking up a paper at a store or from a street vendor is impossible — for the time being. For that reason, the Herald paper copies

and electronic versions are no longer being published, although news is being posted on the paper's Facebook site.

There are a number of other news organizations on the island reporting local news, none of which has the following of the Daily Herald. Here at *SXM Weekly News* we publish principally for tourists, very much a different audience and different content than what the *Herald* delivers — and we will continue to do so since all members of the staff of *SXM Weekly News* work from home, as always.

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## 22. 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](http://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.

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## 23. 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](mailto: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](http://www.island92.com)



## 24. 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.

## 25. 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 24, above), 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.**

## 26. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ :::::::::: Updated 4/11/20

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](http://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](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)*

*Canadian government updates [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html)*

*National Institutes of Health (NIH) [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)*

*US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)*

*US State Department emergency assistance [coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov)*

*World Health Organization (WHO) [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)*

*SkyMed Travel reservations [www.skymedtravel.com](http://www.skymedtravel.com) or email [info@skymedtravel.com](mailto:info@skymedtravel.com)*

*SkyMed Member Services 1-480-946-5188 or 1-800-475-9633 or [memberservices@skymed.com](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm) or you can email him at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

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## **27. 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](http://everythingxsm.com). That's the only place & the only way you can find the link to enter our giveaway. All winners \*MUST\* be subscribers to SXM Weekly News (required); it's free. We will verify that all winners are subscribers.

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

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## **28. 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), our new SkyMed site, going live shortly.. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

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## 29. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.isolaristorante.com)

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

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

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

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

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 7/8/19) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids.

**Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly 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](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant) 4/15/19. Just go....

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

**Topper's** <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.

**Dany'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](http://www.sailstmaarten.com) (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

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

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

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

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

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

**Jimbo's**, [www.jimboscafe.com](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

**Taloula Mango** <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

**You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#).** Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

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## 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.

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

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring



2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

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

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## 32. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), now live; please bookmark that and not any other site.

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

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

**Customer stories are below is story 29.**

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## 33. Going Somewhere? Get Guaranteed Renewable Annual SkyMed Protection Now, Only About \$1.35/day

**SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Without it, an emergency medical evacuation by air ambulance will cost you from \$25,000 to \$50,000 or more, sometimes much more, payable in cash in advance. Worse, you must get it before you need it - just like fire insurance.**

**Buy a new SkyMed multiyear five-year membership from us now by phoning us at 508-747-8281 (at about \$1.35/day price guaranteed for 10 years when we take your application by phone) and we'll give you a 5 year new or renewal JMB Website Supporters membership on us. All you need to do is email us a copy of your welcome letter from SkyMed after approval to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed.**

Of course we'll be happy to answer your questions and we can tell you about everything SkyMed offers. Totally up to you what type of coverage you select. Much more info about SkyMed is in the next story.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits [here](#).

**By buying guaranteed renewable annual or multiyear protection now at only about \$1.35/day, pre-existing conditions will be covered in full after a brief 90-day waiting period. SkyMed protects you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is available as well. For answers to your questions, call us today at 508-747-8281.**

See next story for much more on SkyMed. Offer ends soon.

Again, our new SkyMed website is [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb): please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site. Thank you.

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**Get The Current Low Price  
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership  
and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.**

**That's a 10-year price guarantee.**  
**More benefits... same price.**

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See [skymed.com/jmb](http://skymed.com/jmb). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

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### **34. Are You Military, 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](http://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.

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

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

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

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### **36. 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](http://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](http://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

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

**That's what we do:**

**[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)**

**In business since the web began --**

***a unit of JMB Communications.***

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

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.

Our Sponsorships enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email [susank@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly.

Winter is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases throughout this year and beyond. Contact us today for more information.

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**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):**

**[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)**

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**Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated**

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: [http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) .

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

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

**SECTION 5: For Members Only**

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). To change your password, click that same link.
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .Your username and password are required.

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com). You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the \*spam\* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com); unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

**Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:**

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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

#### **Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)**

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

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

**Privacy Policy** [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

4/13/20 #V3-1244 8:00 pm EST 4/11/20

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