

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 4/20/20: State of Emergency; Cruise Shutdowns; Atrium Terminations; Masks; Supermarket Status; Alcohol Ban ends; Prime Minister "cult" video; aid for French, Dutch sides; Hints About Reopening; All the News You Need in SXM in 38 stories

Can't see this newsletter? Go [here](#) for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.

**Vol. 3, #1245 --- Monday, April 20, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

Member News

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

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2020. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add 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.**

*******Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter.*******

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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather; Getting Here:

- CDC Extends No-Sail Order to End of July
- Major Cruise Lines Extend Shutdowns Through June
- Hurricane Preparation for 2020 w/ Covid-19 (in section 4)

SXM Accommodations:

- Atrium Terminates All but Three Employees

Island Headlines for Tourists:

- Get 6 Months Free SkyMed Protection & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection
- Help Us Continue to Publish Weekly News
- Dutch Side to Extend State of Emergency Three More Weeks
- How SXM May Start to Reopen This Summer
- Why Masks? Asymptomatic/Presymptomatic Victims May Be MOST Contagious
- Supermarkets Reopen With American Style Crisis Mgt
- Alcohol Sales Resume After 4-Day Ban: "Don't get drunk and beat your wife and children"
- Daily Herald Resumes Publishing
- Dutch Side Prime Minister Becoming a Cult Sensation...
- What China's Possible "Second Wave" May Mean to the World
- Critically Important Contacts for American & Canadian Tourists
- First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits
- 2020 Hurricane Preparedness w/ COVID-19- Important

 -- Please Help Us Continue to Help You...
 #####
 -- Get SkyMed BEFORE You Need It
 #####

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

- Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
- #####
- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

38 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://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:

Published edition only.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Published edition 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](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

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

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

- 1. CDC Extends No-Sail Order to End of July**
- 2. Major Cruise Lines Extend Shutdowns Through June**
- 3. Where are The Best Looking Airline Pilots?**
- 4. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info**
- 5. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart**
- 6. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals**

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

- 7. Atrium Terminates All but Three Employees**
- 8. 2021 Rentals Available Now at Everythingxsm.com**
- 9. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units**
- 10. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info**

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

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

- 11. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates**

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

- 12. **Get 6 Months Free SkyMed Protection & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection**
- 13. **Help Us Continue to Publish Weekly News**
- 14. **Dutch Side to Extend State of Emergency Three More Weeks**
- 15. **How SXM May Start to Reopen This Summer**
- 16. **Why Masks? Asymptomatic/Presymptomatic Victims May Be MOST Contagious**
- 17. **Supermarkets Reopen With American Style Crisis Mgt**
- 18. **Alcohol Sales Resume After 4-Day Ban "Don't get drunk and beat your wife and children"**
- 19. **Daily Herald Resumes Publishing**
- 20. **Dutch Side Prime Minister Becoming a Cult Sensation...**
- 21. **What China's Possible "Second Wave" May Mean to the World**
- 22. **Critically Important Contacts for American & Canadian Tourists**
- 23. **First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits**
- 24. **2020 Hurricane Preparedness - Important**

#####

- 24a. **Island 92 Needs Your Help**
- 25. **Get a Little Bit of the Island in Your Home, NOW**
- 26. **Help Us Continue to Help You...**
- 27. **SkyMed FAQ**

#####

- 28. **SkyMed for Upcoming Car Travel: Member Stories**
- 29. **Restaurant of the Week:**
- 30. **Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly**
- 31. **Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How**
- 32. **Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / skymed.com/jmb**
- 33. **Going Anywhere? SkyMed's Guaranteed Renewable Annual Membership is Just \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available**
- 34. **Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?**
- 35. **Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate**
- 36. **Please Patronize our Sponsors**
- 37. **SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic**

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

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. CDC Extends No-Sail Order to End of July

The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has extended its no-sail order on cruises in US waters through the end of July or until the Covid 19 Pandemic is over, whichever comes last.

In issuing its new order, the CDC was sharply critical of cruise ship companies saying they had not done enough to mitigate spreading of highly contagious illnesses such as Covid on their ships.

All in all, the order constitutes a strong whack upside the head to the entire cruise industry. Cruises by many operators to the Caribbean represent the largest single market for cruise ship passengers in the world. [Here](#) is much more on this story.

2. Major Cruise Lines Extend Shutdown Through June

In a move that is much more likely to cause confusion and disarray rather than reassurance, major cruise lines have extended their shutdown through the end of June. In fact, it may be that they're hoping the Centers for Disease Control — which ordered them to shut down through the end of July, not June — will change course if things suddenly look rosy and allow cruise ship operators to begin operating in June.

Our advice to people who were contemplating taking a cruise before July is to back off rather than make reservations that appear highly likely to require cancellation, which could be another massive hassle.

See also articles 14 and 15 for information about when SXM may be expected to "reopen."

[Here](#) is more about the cruise lines announcements concerning shut down.

3. Where are The Best Looking Airline Pilots?

Regardless of whether you're a woman or a man, there's a good chance you will find [this story](#)... interesting.

4. 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***

5. 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).

6. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

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

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

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and

provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.

You won't be disappointed.

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

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

7. Atrium Terminates All but Three Employees

In a move that has a number of people scratching their heads, Festiva, the company that operates the Atrium timeshare resort in Simpson Bay, last week terminated all but three timeshare resort employees.

As we understand it, the laws of SXM require a certain process to be followed for terminating employees in a spectrum of conditions. Nonetheless, it appears that Atrium simply chose to do some slashing without taking the allegedly required steps.

Long-time employees were astonished and executives with the union representing them were angry — and are now looking at their options.

Festiva is not a dull-witted company, so it strikes us that there must be a corporate reason behind this action. We'll keep an eye on the situation and continue to report about it right here in *SXM Weekly News*. Hopefully, sooner rather than later, we'll all know what the back story is here.

We'll also publish updates in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Here is [more](#).

8. 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*.

9. 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.

10. 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

11. 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

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

12.

**Get Six Months of SkyMed Protection Free* &
Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion of Coverage of
Pre-Existing Conditions:
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 22 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 or future calls 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
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 MAY NOT BE SEEN. Thank you.

Important: If you buy now and won't be traveling for three months or more, the 90-day exclusion of coverage on pre-existing conditions will finish once you travel -- a truly big deal. You also get a 30-day free look on SkyMed memberships. Reserve your spot in the 3/22 webinar TODAY and pick up that unique SkyMed peace-of-mind.

**** 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](#) on our own SkyMed promotion for fans of SXM:

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.

13. Help Us Continue to Publish SXM Weekly News

We need your help to continue to bring you all of the significant tourist-related news from SXM every week, as we have since 1992. Although *SXM Weekly News* is free, funding makes it possible. Funding comes from readers joining our **JMB Website Supporters island discount program**, signing up for **SkyMed** (for which we receive commissions), and getting our new **purple sand chair SXM euro ovals** (see story 25). *Our office lights and our computers and phone lines can't stay on without your help*. Every dollar helps. Thank you.

For more on all of this, see our main site at everythingxsm.com. A photo of the oval is in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

14. Dutch Side to Extend State of Emergency Three More Weeks

Dutch side Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs is saying that the Dutch side is preparing to extend its current state of emergency an additional three weeks. What this will mean is explained in detail in [this story](#).

In the meantime, a ship from the Royal Dutch Navy is on the way to the island to bring emergency supplies, and a French helicopter aircraft carrier stopped off in French St. Martin last week to off-load medical supplies. Here is [that story](#).

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is also delivering about 50 million guilders to the Dutch side to help it maintain liquidity, but Dutch government state secretary Raymond Knops attached limitations to the funding and chastised the Dutch side government on a variety of administrative and financial issues; that story is [here](#).

15. How SXM May Start to Reopen This Summer

At some point this summer, SXM is expected to slowly begin to return to normal operations. The tremendous efforts that the island governments have undertaken to control exposure to Covid 19 are not about to be thrown away by a dangerous sudden reopening of floodgates; that could easily cause a second wave of new Covid 19 cases across the island, necessitating a second, longer, and much more severe island-wide shut down.

The same kinds of preconditions will need to be followed in St. Maarten that medical authorities in the United States are advising for the US. That includes a methodical process with thorough testing and much more. It's slower but infinitely safer.

Consequently, when cruise ships are again welcomed to return in limited numbers and when flights resume, also in limited numbers, there will be new measures to prescreen visitors and make sure everyone inbound is healthy and will not spread deadly contagious disease across the island.

Bottom line: expect SXM to open up but not as it was before. Temporary change is happening everywhere -- and SXM will not be an exception.

As always, we will do our best to continue to keep you informed about all tourist-relevant news coming from SXM.

16. Why Masks? Asymptomatic/Presymptomatic Victims May Be MOST Contagious

News reports broadcast late last week on CNN in the US indicate that medical authorities believe that asymptomatic/presymptomatic victims of Covid 19 may be the most contagious of any Covid 19 victims.

That's disturbing news, since it means that people who have no symptoms and are showing no sign of any illness and therefore may not be practicing social distancing or wearing masks may be the ones most likely to be spreading the disease.

Originally, medical authorities said that people who were ill needed to wear masks so they would not spread the illness to others. They recently expanded that to urge everyone to wear masks when they go anywhere in public, hopefully to prevent themselves from being infected by aerosol droplets containing the Covid 19 virus. Individuals who feel they are healthy — asymptomatic/presymptomatic people — may not wear masks simply because they feel fine and won't be seeing many people. That could be a mammoth error if the concept that presymptomatic/asymptomatic individuals are the most likely to spread disease turns out to be reality.

The simple answer to the question, why masks?... is that they can save your life and the lives of members of your family, friends, and associates. Masks are not easy to come by, but a number of websites tell you how to make your own from bandannas or T-shirts you may already have around the house. [This source](#), which is donating hundreds of thousands of masks to first responders, nursing homes, and hospitals also sells some to individuals and may be another source for you to check.

17. Supermarkets Reopen With American Style Crisis Mgt

When supermarkets first reopened for in-house shopping this week, there was initially a fair amount of confusion and crowding. That quickly vanished as markets adopted US-style social distancing guidance; cleaning of carriages with antiseptics before and after visitors use them; limitations on the number of people that can be in any store at any one time; masks for all employees and visitors; and antiseptics for visitors as well.

There were restrictions this week on what markets people could go to (those nearby) as well as on what days those visits could take place, but we expect the travel restrictions very slowly to ease, though the social distancing and antiseptic measures should be in force until the WHO declares the Pandemic to be at an end and its local impacts to be over.

Here is [more](#).

18. Alcohol Sales Resume After 4-Day Ban

Alcohol sales on SXM resumed last week after a four-day ban. The ban was not greeted with open arms. When it was over, Silveria Jacobs, the Dutch side Prime Minister, admonished locals in her customary blunt language, "Don't get drunk and beat your wife and children." The concern over the possibility of such beatings apparently was at the heart of the alcohol ban.

19. Daily Herald Resumes Publishing

The Dutch side St. Maarten Daily Herald newspaper, published daily except Sunday for many years, has resumed publishing after the temporary lockdown — which had temporarily closed all of the newspaper's points of sale — had

made publication impossible. Now that grocery stores are open, the Daily Herald is back in business.

20. Dutch Side Prime Minister Becoming a Cult Sensation...

Like many governors in the US, Silveria Jacobs, Dutch side Prime Minister, broadcasts to island residents every evening about what's happening and what the government is doing to safeguard their health and safety as the Pandemic continues and strong efforts to contain it continue as well.

The plain-talking Prime Minister never minces words. Her crystal-clear rhetoric is usually quite popular with the voters — except when she temporarily banned the sale of alcohol.

She has warned people against hoarding and told them if they don't have a certain kind of food, they should eat something else. She gave several examples, including if you don't have bread, eat crackers. She also told people to maintain social distancing when talking to neighbors over the fence between yards, and she warned people that "if your neighbor coughs, run." That observation led to the creation of a music video apparently made without her authorization but with widespread amusement by island residents and others. In our view, all of this constitutes Silveria Jacobs becoming something of a cult sensation on the island — and right now, that's something the island truly needs -- especially since it helps effectively communicate the message.

[See the video here.](#)

21. What China's Possible "Second Wave" May Mean to the World

Very late last week, news began to spread in the US of a possible second wave of Covid 19 infections in China, which is where Covid 19 is said to have originated. China denied the news but reports persist. The nation with the best record at fighting the disease — one which clamped down hard, quickly, to stop Covid 19 in its tracks — was South Korea. China, critics say, put on a show of strong anti-Covid activity but critics charge it was more of a show than an effective control methodology.

If a second wave of Covid can happen in China, it can happen anywhere where commerce is opened prematurely -- before adequate testing has been in place and executed and where data has been used to decide when it's appropriate to reopen commerce. It's not a decision which should ever be made based upon emotion: if a second wave is ensuing in China, it's ensuing because medical authorities were not allowed to do their jobs.

22. Critically Important Contacts for American & Canadian Tourists

U.S. Citizen Travelers:

Please enroll in **step.state.gov** to receive alerts & ensure you can be located in an emergency.



U.S. Citizens in an Emergency:

Call **1-888-407-4747** (U.S./Canada) or **+1-202-501-4444** (overseas) or contact the nearest embassy: **travel.state.gov**

If you don't see the images above, what they tell US citizen travelers to do is to enroll in Step.state.gov to receive alerts and ensure that the traveler can be located in an emergency.

In an emergency, US citizens overseas are urged to call 1-888-407-4747 from the US or Canada or 1-202-501-4444 if they are overseas or contact the nearest US embassy at travel.state.gov. We have also published this in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

If you are from Canada, a rescue flight to Montreal is being organized for Canadian citizens.

Please contact <https://www.facebook.com/melinarouleau3> via Facebook and she will put you in touch with the Canadian consul who is on SXM. This information was published last week in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If you're not a member, it's time you joined....

23. 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.

24. 2020 Hurricane Preparedness - Important

Prepared by Rob Lightbown, [Crown Weather Services](#)

I wanted to send these various tips out to you as I know many of you are concerned about how hurricane preparations and decisions may be impacted by COVID-19; especially since it continues to look like a very busy hurricane season

coming up. In fact, there are signals in the data that suggest we may see our first tropical system of the season as soon as mid or late May.

- If you don't have flood insurance, consider getting it. If you do have flood insurance, but have been recently laid off or furloughed, check with your agent to see if an extended grace period is available to avoid lapse in coverage.
- If you live in a hurricane evacuation zone & will need to stay in an evacuation shelter, make sure you arrive early as social distancing rules may limit capacity. Also, delays may occur due to medical screenings upon entry.
- Make sure to add disinfectant supplies to your hurricane supply kit. Wherever you evacuate to, you will want to routinely wipe down & disinfect your belongings.
- Plan for your pets!! For public health reasons, many shelters don't allow pets. Whether a shelter allows pets will be shelter-specific. If you plan to evacuate to a hotel, line up a pet friendly hotel. Otherwise look for open pet boarding near your shelter.
- Check with your local government and emergency management officials for the latest hurricane season evacuation guidance. Stay-at-home orders and public health recommendations will evolve. Start local for the latest info on shelters and evacuations.

I will begin sending out regular tropical weather discussions for the Hurricane Season on Friday, May 1 [to Crown Weather Clients -Ed.]. This will not only give you a heads-up on any possible early season tropical activity, but it will also give me a chance to try out some new things when posting our tropical weather discussions, well before things begin to get busy.

Our plans for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season remain the same. First, our discussions and updates will remain the same, although, I'm going to try to post shorter, but more frequent updates when systems are upgraded or when there is a tropical storm or hurricane about to make landfall. In the past, I would rehash/update the entire discussion, which can take an abundant amount of time. So, in addition to the regular long tropical weather discussions that I write, I'm going to try to also send out much shorter updates when needed.

I also still plan on trying video tropical weather discussions & video tropical weather updates. This is something that I have been busy setting up & should be able to do. My thinking is to have both video tropical weather discussions & have a question/answer video session (either I answer your questions live or have you send me your questions to be answered during a video session).

Finally, like many of you our finances have taken a huge hit from the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Many of you, unfortunately are not able to renew your subscriptions due to finances & I completely understand & support those decisions.

If you are able to help us with expenses, you can send a donation by going to <https://crownweather.com/index.php/donate/>. Again, you are under NO obligation to donate, but if you are able to, THANK YOU so much in advance!

Crown Weather Services has been providing tropical weather discussions and updates with professionalism & integrity since 1994 & we plan to continue doing so for many more years to come. The current worldwide pandemic has hit all of us extremely hard, yet we remain committed to provide you with accurate & timely tropical weather information throughout this upcoming hurricane season.

THANK YOU for being part of our Crown Weather family. We appreciate any donation – every contribution will have a significant impact & no amount is too small.

24a. 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

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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 . 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

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 advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed which arranged and paid for an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again,

with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head

by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which

threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw.

The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works. That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. [You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.](#)

Anything can happen anywhere: Do it today. To learn more, visit www.skymed.com/jmb, our new SkyMed site, going live shortly.. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

29. 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 Sushiitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

Mandarin Pan Asian, Port de Plaisance (featured 6/10/19) Excellent Pan-Asian dining including Japanese, Thai, and Chinese. Nice setting near the casino at Port de Plaisance.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is as stupendous as it ever was, with spectacular dining in an equally spectacular restored building on the Emilio Wilson Estate. Ask to see the wine cellar and the museum. Open for lunch and dinner: not to be missed.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....

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

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

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

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

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

30. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

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

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

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

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

Check it out [here](#). It has recently been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added just hours after

mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

32. 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.

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 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

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 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.

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, our new site, going live shortly.

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

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.

37. 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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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?>

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2019. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends

its copyrights. *Everything St. Maarten*, *Everything SXM*, and *Everything St. Martin* are service marks of JMB Communications. *JMB Communications* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

4/20/20 #V3-1245 4:00 pm EDT 4/18/20

| [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2020. World rights reserved.

###