

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 5/11/20: "Good News Special Edition" - Island Lockdowns De-escalating, Reopenings Beginning; Caravanserai Litigation Gets a Boost; No New Covid Cases; Beaches Reopening; Sargassum Returns; Airfares Rising; Non-US Cruise Lines want \$; US Rescue Flight Thurs.; Get 6 Months of SkyMed Medevac Protection Free [36 SXM News Stories This Week]

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Vol. 3, #1248 --- Monday, May 11, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



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Member News

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

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

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

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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 about 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:

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- *Airfares Rising*
- *Hurricane Season Starts June 1*

SXM Accommodations:

- *Later 2020, 2021 Rentals Now Available Now*

Island Headlines for Tourists:

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- *Sargassum Seaweed Returns*
- *French Side "Life" To Restart*
- *Beach Activity Resuming*
- *SkyMed Launches Renewal Bonus: Three Months Free*

 -- *Get 6 Months Free SkyMed Protection & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection; New Military Discounts, Too, for Americans & Canadians*
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-- *Please Help Us Continue to Help You...*
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 -- *Get SkyMed BEFORE You Need It*
 #####

-- *Please Patronize JMB Sponsors*
 #####
 -- *SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic*

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

36 News Stories This Week

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

RENTAL 2/13/2021 2/20/2021 7 **LaVista Resort The Cottage is a private studio structure with a king bed, living room with pull-out sofa bed, dining area, kitchenette and bath with shower.** The cottage is located near the pool & restaurant. Charming replica of traditional Antillean Home with large porch and Ocean view. The kitchenette consist of 2 burners, sink, refrigerator, microwave, and small appliances. They are all furnished with silverware, dishes, glasses, etc. This unit has air-conditioning, satellite TV (with 14 channels). La Vista also proposes a safe deposit box at a minimal fee, direct dial telephones and electrical generator in case of island power failure. \$1100 plus renter is responsible for the \$50 timeshare fee Judy 603-434-1254 ronshagen@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/6/2021 3/13/2021 **Week 10 Simpson Bay Resort Penthouse unit**, great corner unit in the Marina Bldg. Very large 2 BR 2 bath unit sleeps 8. Each bedroom opens onto a balcony. There is a separate area off the

LR that contains a sleeper sofa and two Murphy Beds are located in the living room. One bedroom opens onto the balcony that overlooks the marina and has a hot tub while the other bedroom opens onto the front balcony. Full kitchen, living room and dining room plus outside dining table. Great unit in a great location \$25,500 Glenn (508)274-1130 vnyrdlady@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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"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.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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- 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. Despite Low-Cost Fuel, Airfares Headed for Sharp Rise

Although the cost of jet fuel has recently been at historically low levels, low fuel costs are not translating into low airfares as much as you might expect.

There have been some low fares, but miniscule load levels aboard airplanes continue: people just aren't traveling, fearful of being greeted by Covid 19 at their destination.

Worse for travelers, the cost of jet fuel is starting to rise, mirroring the rising cost of crude oil. (Don't be misled by the recent cost of gas at Costco of \$1.40/gal. Prices are going up.)

For the foreseeable future, it will be necessary for airlines to enforce social distancing. That means no sales of middle seats and maximum occupancy per airplane of about 70% of actual capacity. That immediately reduces airline profits which are already at dangerously low levels -- and for their survival, airlines need to raise prices.

Critics argue that their profits have been in the billions in recent years...and they have already received the \$ promised by federal bailouts. But thousands of current commercial airplanes are now parked in the desert of southern Arizona near Tucson — pulled out of flight inventory while Covid 19 is wreaking havoc with air travel.

It would be a nice surprise to find economical fares now for your future SXM trip. If you see them, grab them on sight — provided they are for flights from mid to late summer on through next year, when SXM air travel may restart. Fares will not stay low for long.

Please see several related stories in this issue, particularly in our main news section (section 4) concerning recovery. The news is good, but there's still a lot that needs to happen before flights to SXM can be resumed.

2. Cruise Critics Seething as Non-US Lines Beg for Big Handouts

Most major cruise ship lines are now based outside the United States — for tax reasons.

Since many have a number of ships based in the US, and since they carry many US passengers, many of these foreign-based cruise lines are now rather boldly asking the US for billions in bailout money. Norwegian is saying it is in perilous financial shape.

Here is [much more info](#) on this situation:

3. 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***

4. 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). Also noted above; republished in case you missed it.)

5. 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.

6. When Will SXM Hotels/Timeshares Reopen?

That's the most asked question now among would-be tourists seeking travel to SXM.

Since SXM has not had any new Covid 19 cases confirmed in the last two weeks, it's reasonable to assume that the rate of infection on the island for Covid 19 is declining — great news.

In fact, as you will read in other stories in this edition of *SXM Weekly News*, getting from opening up businesses somewhat — a process which is now starting — to opening up the island to foreign tourism is an immense step requiring meticulous planning and execution. Even then, it's loaded with potential pitfalls, and making mistakes is not an option.

The French and Dutch sides have been coordinating their activities related to Covid 19 to a visibly increasing degree. It stands to reason that they will be carefully coordinating not only current business reopenings, but also figuring out how and when they can safely reopen the island to airborne tourism going forward. Do not expect that part of the equation to be quick: they don't want to make any mistakes.

So, when will SXM hotels and timeshares reopen? If that has been decided, it has not yet been announced. When that happens, we'll post the news immediately to members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program and we'll post it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We welcome you to join that group to get the fastest report once hotel reopenings have been announced.

7. 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*.

8. 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.

9. 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

10. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Once the island reopens to tourism, we will be 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](#).

JMB Website Supporters 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

10a. LEAD STORY: Lots of Good News from SXM

For the first time in a long time, there is lots of good news this week from your favorite island — on two very different fronts.

First, there haven't been any new cases of Covid 19 on the Dutch side for about two weeks. Reports from the French side appear to be similar. Both sides have executed shutdowns for close to two months. On days when grocery shopping has been open and a few other essential businesses have been allowed to be open, virtually everyone has been wearing masks and playing by social distancing rules.

As a result of those shutdowns and the serious reduction in Covid cases, both sides of the island are moving toward de-escalating the lockdowns, slowly reopening other businesses including restaurants, and enabling people to go to the [beach](#) — though not in groups. Much detail about all of this has been published in the last few days in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), where we have also listed official information about what businesses will be open when on both sides of the island, subject to detail availability. You may have to scroll a bit on the site to find that info.

Second, there has been a decision *recommendation* in the lawsuit by litigating Caravanserai timeshare owners against Ray Sidhom and Alegria resort, recently renamed (once again), now "The Morgan.". A few years ago, Sidhom bought Caravanserai timeshare resort out of bankruptcy and immediately notified timeshare owners by email that their contracts were null and void. Since there is no such concept as class-action lawsuits in SXM, some

timeshare owners formed a litigation group to go after the resort and its owner, Ray Sidhom, to recover their rights. In a succession of losses for Sidhom, courts have ruled in favor of the litigants, saying that despite changes of resort ownership on the island the rights of timeshare owners must be honored. The most recent *recommendation* was by the Attorney General. A Dutch citizen who is familiar with the matter told us, "the Supreme Court takes the Attorney General's opinion under advisement, but the Supreme Court has yet to enter a ruling (expected late summer end of August.)" Hopefully the final decision will reflect the recommendation that is the subject of this [story](#).

11. High Demand Possible for Winter '20-'21 SXM Villa Vacations

The vacation travel business is abuzz with chatter about the possibility that the coming winter travel season particularly in the Caribbean may be one of higher demand for villa accommodations.

Since no anti-Covid 19 vaccine is currently expected to be available much before the end of next winter, it's incumbent upon individuals who travel to take maximum precautions to ensure their own continued good health when traveling on business or pleasure.

That's one of the reasons that some travelers to SXM may opt out of hotel or timeshare vacations to a greater degree this coming winter and instead go into much smaller resorts where there is lots of individual attention — and into the hundreds of villas that are available on SXM, with other members of their immediate or extended families as well as friends. (Timeshare Resorts will continue to provide the same safe, clean accommodations as always, of course.)

It's likely that no other island in the Caribbean is quite so ideally positioned to respond to this need as is St. Maarten/St. Martin. JMB SXM media has multiple sponsor partners a majority of whose business is to offer villa rentals. *Story 34 in this issue gives you a complete list of our Villa rental/sales partners who can be of tremendous help to you in selecting your ideal vacation place, if you're considering SXM villas.*

If you are looking for advice, information, and help on making the transition to island residency so you can more fully enjoy everything SXM has to offer, we strongly suggest you can also contact [BrightPath](#), the Dutch side company whose expertise enables it to figuratively grease the skids on any relocation effort on either side of the island. Much more about them is [here](#).

12. US Rescue Flight SXM-USA Set for This Thursday

The Curaçao based US Consul General has set up another rescue flight for American ex-pats to return to SXM this coming Thursday. The flight, believed originally to have been scheduled for a 737, was upgraded to a larger Boeing 757 aircraft when all the initial seats on the airplane sold out quickly. The 757s quickly sold out as well.

Please use the following information to notify the Consul Gen. if you are now on the island and need/want to get back to the US: If you're an ex-Pat or tourist from the United States on SXM, please make sure the US State Department knows about it. Visit [step.state.gov](#) to receive alerts and ensure that you can be contacted in an emergency.

In an emergency, you should call 1-888-407-4747 from the USA or Canada or call 1-202-501-4444 from overseas or contact the nearest US embassy at [travel.state.gov](#).

Please share this important information with all friends who travel. If they visit SXM, please invite them to join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and visit that group multiple times a day, since it is the first place where we normally post information about rescue flights and a lot of other topics. That, coupled with this publication, SXM Weekly News, enables you to stay informed and be able to act quickly should conditions warrant.

We will continue to publish information about any future rescue flights back to the USA or Canada in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). That's the first and most immediate place where we post such information on arrival. At the moment, no further rescue flights are planned.

13. Increased French / Dutch Cooperation Clearly

Evident

During the last few years, there has been significantly increased cooperation between the French and Dutch sides with relation to law enforcement and other matters. One of those matters has been how each side deals with Covid 19, related to lockdowns and other detailed enforcement actions.

It's good to see this. SXM needs heavy marketplace promotion, not only after Covid 19 has been vanquished but going forward and delivering for the island a unified marketing message that covers print and social media, newspapers, broadcast media and more. Many of the island's issues can be solved if it increases its revenue from tourists. The only long-term effective way to do that is by increasing tourism and ensuring that the product tourists will be seeing is top-notch. It is much more productive to do this together in a one-island approach rather than in vertical approaches for each side, with no real cooperation between the different sides of the island. That might very well become a reality -- soon.

14. No New Covid-19 Cases on Dutch Side for Two Weeks

During the last couple of weeks, during which a lockdown has been enforced on both sides of the island, SXM has managed to not only flatten the curve of Covid infections, but also has caused it to dive. There have been no new Covid infections on the Dutch side for about the last two weeks, which is why it is moving toward reopening and is working now on the details of the reopening.

We have posted and will continue to post details about reopening in various articles in this edition and we're covering news as it happens on the pages of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Please read details in the stories to follow in this edition, and plan to go to SXM and enjoy yourself later on this summer and throughout the winter, when you feel it's safe to do so; SXM clearly needs all the tourist revenue it can generate.

15. Sargassum Seaweed Returns

As if SXM doesn't have enough to contend with as it is, Sargassum seaweed has now returned to the island, mostly on East-facing beaches but also on the northern end of Orient Bay. Originating in the Sargasso Sea well north and east of SXM, Sargassum has been aggravated by climate change and nutrients entering the sea from rainwater runoff along rivers near farms in both North and South America. It first started bothering SXM about eight years ago, and has made periodic visits ever since. It has not significantly affected West-facing beaches or the southern end of Orient beach, home of the naturist Club Orient and the nude beach there.

16. The Coming Dilemma for Some Restaurateurs

On SXM, where almost the entire economy centers around revenue from visiting tourists, restaurateurs are trying to figure out what to do now, as it appears that national shutdowns on both sides of the island are drawing to a close.

On the one hand, restaurateurs can't earn a living when their restaurants are closed. But if they reopen, they need the staff required to run the restaurant — which is expensive — and they need ample numbers of tourists to bring in the revenue necessary to make running the restaurant profitable.

Although private business operations on both sides of the island are expected to gradually open up, it doesn't make sense for restaurants to reopen if they appeal largely to tourists and if tourists are not yet returning to the island.

The plan on the part of some restaurateurs is to hang loose until they know tourists are going to start coming back in numbers substantial enough so that they should reasonably expect sufficient business to make opening profitable. Many normally close in late Summer and early Fall (annual closures when hurricane season is here and there are few tourists), but because of the recent shutdowns nobody really knows what kind of restaurant closures will happen this year or what their duration will be. Everything will relate to Covid-19.

There is no question that Restaurateurs want to reopen their businesses as soon as practicable. The only question is when they can do so profitably.

17. Returning Residents Face Two-Week Quarantine

On the Dutch side, returning residents — including college students, SXM citizens living abroad, and even American ex-pats — should soon expect to be able to return to the island, although the exact date is not yet clear.

The return, however, will not be anything remotely resembling business as usual. In fact, the Dutch side has announced that returning residents will face a two week quarantine when they return to the island. If their intent upon returning was to spend two weeks or less in SXM, the returnees should revisit whether their trip is worth it, since it would be spent entirely in quarantine.

Here is [that story](#).

18. French Side "Life" To Restart

The French side has announced formal reopening to begin shortly. It has published the dates when certain types of businesses will be able to reopen, along with details. We've published the reopening documents, in English, in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), where you can readily find them by using the search feature on that site.

The reopening will be gradual and staggered according to types of businesses. As is the case in the rest of the world, should there be a sudden adverse change in the number of Covid cases evidenced after the reopening, the government reserves the right to reverse course and shut things down to keep people safe. That is not now expected to happen since both sides of the island have taken serious measures to ensure the island is healthy.

Serious measures will also be undertaken to ensure ongoing good health once visitors are allowed to return. They will be able to come to SXM, we expect, only after they meet certain requirements to ensure that they are in good health on arrival. Making that happen is a complex planning exercise. Once details are announced, we'll publish them.

19. Dutch Side Examining De-escalating Lockdown

Here is this [complete story](#).

20. Beach Activity Resuming

Frenchside beach activity has now resumed — though any group activities remain forbidden. People are allowed to swim, walk, or jog on the beach, although it appears that sunbathing may still be frowned upon, for now, out of fear that it may involve groups of people who don't maintain social distancing.

More on this is in the French side reopenings material that were mentioned in story 18; you can see those materials in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), by using the Search window there.

21. Travel Still Banned Betw. Dutch / French Sides

During the lockdown on both sides of the island, travel between the French and Dutch side was shut down, and it remains so.

Once commerce returns to normal on both sides of the island, it is expected that travel between the sides — which has been unencumbered for hundreds of years — will be resumed. The two countries on the island have worked very hard to stop Covid 19 and resume the good health of everyone on the island. They will resume transportation between both sides of the island as soon it is safe to do so. Once it happens, we will report on it both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

22. SkyMed Launches Renewal Bonus: Three Months Free

SkyMed has launched a Get Back to Work RENEWAL Special for current owners of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. The first wave of the RENEWAL Special is for RENEWALS happening from May 1st to August 31st. SkyMed Members renewing through Jeff Berger during this period will receive an additional 3 month FREE extension to their SkyMed membership.

There will be a Phase II of the Get Back to Work Special dedicated to memberships that have lapsed. We'll have more information on Phase II soon. To renew your SkyMed membership now, call Jeff directly during normal East coast business hours at 508-747-8281, his direct line.

23. Get 6 Months of Free* SkyMed Protection & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection:

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

**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 Wed. May 6 at about 10:45am 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. **[Note: you can now also get the free six months by phoning Jeff directly. Once you sign up for the 5-year Ultimate membership through Jeff, you get six months free. Limited time offer ends soon. Call today -- number below.]**

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 5/6 webinar TODAY and pick up that unique SkyMed peace-of-mind.

24. 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 28). *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](#).

25. 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.

26. 2020 Hurricane Preparedness - Important (Repeat)

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).

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

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

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

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

28. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

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

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 couple of months.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushitto, now

relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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).

**[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

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 4/27/20)

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 protection 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: (See also VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES, below)

[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 in our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

Updated 5/3/20

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

That's what we do:

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In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

35. 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 **JMB SXM Media 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. Or just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger.

Tourism will soon return 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 beyond the shutdown. Contact us today for more information.

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

5/11/20 #V3-1248 5:00 pm EDT 5/8/20 11.3

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