

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 6/22/20: SXM Reopens to North American Tourism on Wednesday, July 1; Tropical Update; No Mask, No Fly; Jet Blue Keeps Expanding; 737 Max; Bringing Home Incredible Caribbean Colors; More... [36 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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**Vol. 3, #1254 --- Monday, June 22, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



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Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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Important Note:

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

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by 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.

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

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- **SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0**

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- **SkyMed's Six Months of Free Protection Offer Ends Soon**
- **"Plus One" JMB Membership Promotion Underway**

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- **Get 6 Months Free SkyMed Protection (ENDS SOON) & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection; New Military Discounts, Too, for Americans & Canadians**

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#####

- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**

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

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

Distributed versions only

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Distributed versions only

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

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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://everythingxsm.com/xsm/about_xsm/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. Tropical Dev't. Quashed, for Now, by Saharan Dust Plume

The pause in tropical activity won't last long, but right now there is one — and that's a good thing during a season expected to yield more than 20 tropical cyclones. The current pause is thanks to Saharan dust — dust from Africa's Sahara desert — blown westward across the tropical Atlantic, expected to be in the Caribbean about now. This can happen almost any time but it's most beneficial to the Caribbean when it happens during hurricane season, inhibiting the formation of storms. Don't be complacent, however: it generally lasts only a few days, causing lots of haze and a dirty film on cars not unlike that caused by tree pollen here in the US.

2. SXM Airport Workers Strike Over Pay

Workers at Princess Juliana SXM Airport — which is about to reopen (see Story 18) — went on strike this past week over pay issues. Their issues with the airport operating company, which is owned by the Dutch side government, are being discussed. Smooth functioning of SXM Airport is essential to the financial success of the entire Dutch side, so the issues represented in this strike action are expected to be resolved amicably and hopefully in short order.

Here is [the story](#) as published in local SXM media.

3. Airlines Crack Down on Mask-Refusing Passengers

There is no national ruling from the FAA that requires airline passengers to wear facemasks which now are of well-documented benefit to stopping the spread of the novel coronavirus and other airborne pathogens. Nonetheless, most airlines now are requiring passengers to wear masks — and last week, when a passenger aboard an American Airlines flight became unruly and refused to wear a mask, he was thrown off his flight.

Here is [that story](#). For your safety and mostly for the safety of everyone around you including your family and friends, wear a mask when you are outside your home and near other people. It is not about "freedom": it's about living or dying and taking others with you.

4. About Air Quality on Passenger Aircraft

Contrary to what many people think, air quality aboard aircraft is rather clean. In fact, passenger aircraft use HEPA filters similar to those used in surgical operating rooms to change the air every three minutes inside the aircraft, replacing it with air from outside.

Although [this video](#) is from KLM, it is typical of the air filtration systems on virtually all modern passenger aircraft.

5. LIAT Not Paying Laid-Off Workers

Leeward Islands Air Transport, more popularly known as Liat, a regional carrier flying prop jets in much of the Caribbean, has had financial difficulties several times in the last few years. In fact, last winter, one of its aircraft stood like a statue at the far end of the Princess Juliana runway, in a parking area for business jets, while the airline was grounded thanks to what at the time were severe money woes.

Now, Liat is being accused of not paying its laid-off workers. Here is [that story](#).

6. Jet Blue's Fleet Continuing Major Updates

Several of the nation's airlines including both JetBlue and Breeze, the to-be-flying by 2021 new airline by airline startup veteran David Neeleman of WestJet, JetBlue, and Azul notoriety, are depending heavily on the new Airbus A220 aircraft, a super-efficient new plane whose economics will enable airlines to use it in midsize cities formerly not served with nonstop routes and quite possibly for new Caribbean routes from some of those smaller cities going forward.

Some of JetBlue's fleet updates have been paused thanks to Covid and economics, but that airline's first A220 arrives late this year. The A220 fleet headquarters will be in Boston, the airline's second busiest hub behind JFK.

This story talks about the [A220 and other aspects of JetBlue's fleet update](#).

7. Jet Blue's New York - London & Boston - London Service to Be Later - and Better -- and Why It Matters to You

JetBlue was originally expected to launch its new nonstops between New York and London and Boston and London next year, though it is now saying that the launch of the new flights could be a bit delayed.

The novel coronavirus has affected many airlines, and in some cases is expected to make some of them smaller — including British Airways, which takes many gate allocations at London Heathrow, the busiest of all London airports. Although JetBlue is still trying to decide which airport it will use for its forthcoming flights, it now has what will clearly be more options at gates in Airports as it looks in the future to possibly using London as a base for additional flights throughout Europe and beyond.

Why is this significant to lovers of SXM? JetBlue is expected to have a disruptive influence on fares from London to the US. Disruptive, here, is a positive term implying that it may start a fare war and ultimately lower fares on these highly lucrative, busy routes. That means people coming from Europe to SXM may well find it significantly cheaper to take JetBlue nonstops from London to New York or Boston where they can connect with nonstops to SXM. Now, their choices are basically limited to a few higher-priced nonstops.

For more, look [here](#).

8. FAA Chief Updates 737 Max Recertification Process

Contrary to what Boeing has been implying and some airlines have been scheduling, it does not appear that the Boeing 737 Max aircraft, grounded in March 2019 following two fatal crashes that took 356 lives, will be returning to the skies anytime soon.

It is a highly efficient aircraft which may well be the safest in the skies when it does return to service, but the FAA is absolutely determined to make sure the plane is in perfect shape before it flies again since it and Boeing screwed up so monumentally on the Max before it was initially launched. As we've said before, no one knows how passengers

will react once it is back in the skies.

The head of the FAA was a former F-15 fighter pilot who then joined Delta airlines, flying a number of aircraft types including the 737. He has said repeatedly that he will fly the plane himself before he will recertify it to fly commercially.

Here is [much more](#) on this.

9. 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***

10. 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.)

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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

15. 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

(16.) JMB Island Discount Program Promotion Ends Soon

First launched 18 years ago, our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program now offers about 300 discounts across the island — a number which we expect to grow once the island reopens for tourism (see related stories in this issue). Although you personally may not return to SXM in the next month or so, no doubt you are looking forward to going back as soon as it is practicable. For that reason — and in recognition of the financial impact Covid has made on many tourists — we want to make it easier for people to obtain our suite of SXM discounts, whether they're doing so for the first time or renewing a JMB Website Supporters membership.

For that reason, we are now introducing **plus 1** — a bold new program that gives everyone buying or renewing a multiyear JMB Website Supporters membership an additional full year of membership on us. This bonus is available today on all new JMB membership and renewal purchases, although you won't see anything about it on everythingSXM.com.

When your new JMB membership or your renewal is processed from now (5/18) through the end of June, we will automatically give you **plus 1** — an additional full year of JMB membership when you start a new **multiyear** JMB membership or renew one for more than one year.

We are also doing this for members of the US military and first responders who are eligible for our Military/first responders memberships. When you order a new or renewal four year military/first responders membership, you'll get an additional year on us if the transaction is completed by the end of this month. That is five years for \$67.96, which is our usual four year ultra low pricing for Military/first responder memberships and renewals. Ends June 30.

Regardless of when you intend to travel or when your current membership expires, this is an offer you should not pass up. We normally now only very rarely have any kind of sales, so **plus 1** is an offer that won't last long and that you should take advantage of now.

Orders can be placed through PayPal in the usual way, and you do not need to do anything special to be able to get this plus one offer. But you do need to respond now, since the offer will expire at the end of June. Much more information about new JMB memberships can be found on our main site, everythingSXM.com, by clicking the page curl. Renewal information is on our JMB members-only secret website, which members can access through logging in via the orange login box below the masthead on all pages of our main site, everythingSXM.com. **Plus 1** is automatic -- you will not find it mentioned on our site, but again, it ends June 30, 2020.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact Membership Services at 508-830-3456 during regular office hours on weekdays, Eastern time.

(17.) SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0; Ends Soon

In recent weeks, SkyMed international has offered six months of free protection as a bonus to people who opt to sign up for their top global membership, the five-year SkyMed Ultimate. This membership provides **SkyMed takes you home**® medical evacuation protection throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus a suite of additional benefits for protection in the rest of the world. A complete list of all SkyMed Features is [here](#). And answers to frequently asked questions concerning SkyMed are [here](#). (These are both PDFs.)

SkyMed's offer of six months of free protection when you opt for a five-year SKYMED ultimate EXPIRES soon. You can sign up for it after watching a SkyMed webinar or simply by calling Jeff directly during regular office hours at JMB Communications on his private number, 508-747-8281.

If you are renewing an existing annual SkyMed membership, Jeff can help you get a free three-month bonus on your renewal with no increase in cost. Call Jeff daytimes at 508-747-8281 for more information or to get this bonus. SkyMed memberships can be renewed as much as 18 months before they expire.

18. SXM Reopens to North American Tourism on Wed., July 1

From the Dutch side government, Ministry of TEATT [Tourism]:

Philipsburg – Minister of TEATT Ludmila de Weever stated that the Country is ready to receive travelers from Europe and North America as of July 1st, which coincides with our celebration of Emancipation Day. The community is encouraged to continue adhering to the proper social distancing and health and safety protocols as well as the established guidelines for businesses in order to maintain a COVID-19 free Sint Maarten.

Minister de Weever released the 'Travel Entry Requirements' to all stakeholders that outline the safety and health protocols, testing requirements, and health screening procedures, among others for visitors arriving at the Princess Juliana International Airport.*

Sint Maarten is [also -Ed.] open to passengers from Saba, Sint Eustatius, Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba, Anguilla, St. Barthelemy, Martinique, and Guadeloupe. For these countries, passengers should ensure that they have been consecutively present there for 21 days prior to the date of departure. No quarantine will be required upon arrival to Sint Maarten.

As of June 22nd, Sint Maarten will be also open to St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica and the British Virgin Islands. The 21-day minimum stay will apply to passengers from these islands. No quarantine will be required.

'The Ministry understands the urgent need for increased economic activity on the island but we intend to re-open in a safe and responsible manner for our residents and visitors,' said Minister de Weever.

The Ministry of TEATT is committed to keeping the public informed of the developments surrounding the re-opening of our borders. Minister de Weever continues to meet with the relevant stakeholders in the interim.

***[From SXM Weekly News]: The travel entry requirements have been posted this morning (Sat.) in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and are now available for download as a shareable PDF from [this link](#).**

Members of the island government read our Facebook site and *SXM Weekly News*, and have been answering questions on our Facebook site since late Friday night when this news was first released by TEATT, the SXM Ministry which handles tourism and other areas. Please do not ask questions about policies *in the USA or Canada for people returning there*; those questions are best answered by the Department of State in the US or a similar department in Canada or your country. (We will try to publish what we learn.) Ask other questions related to SXM in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

19. Blood Type May Determine How Sick You Get from Covid

What's your blood type? It appears now that your blood type may well play a role in how sick you will get should you come down with Covid. Here is [much more on this story](#), apparently first stated by the Chinese several months ago.

20. Island 92, Our On-Air Partner, Needs Your Help

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

21. How to Put Incredible Caribbean Colors in your Home or Office

From Laura Richardson:

A picture speaks a thousand words, and what better way to transport yourself to the beautiful shores of St. Martin than with a liquid turquoise seascape painted from life on location by Sir Roland Richardson. This June and July, Sir Roland's brilliant flamboyants resound the burst of RED that dominates St. Martin's landscape with all its Royal Poincianas in bloom.

Take time to go through [Sir Roland's new website](#) to discover new and more beautiful colors of the rainbow evident throughout his works now displayed on each page of the site.

His YouTube videos on the site are natural and full of generous insights to an amazing world that the artist explores in each of his works.

From sea to hillside, flora to fauna, most special are his sensitive portraits of his island neighbors which are his favorite subject of all.

If you've been considering one of Sir Roland's artworks for your home or office or as a gift to someone special, think of supporting them now through the pandemic closures that have so rocked the island. See www.rolandrichardson.com and send them a nice message through his caring wife, Laura at roland.laura@wanadoo.fr.

22. What's Brewing With Water Rights Near Sunset Bar?

Something is going on — or perhaps starting — in the coral-framed waters adjacent to the new Morgan Resort, formerly the Alegria Resort, and before that the Caravanserai Resort.

For those who may have forgotten, or who are confused by all those names, Caravanserai went bankrupt several years ago and was bought at auction by Ray Sidhom, a billionaire credit card processing magnate from Long Island. He almost immediately sent an email to timeshare owners telling them their contracts were null and void. Courts have since determined that he shouldn't have done that, and they have told him to pay litigating timeshare owners compensation. (We will report further news about what we've dubbed "the Caravanserai Debacle" when the next chapter has been written.)

Now, it appears that parties likely related to Sidhom want to develop property in the ocean right next to the resort. We have gone this way before, where Sidhom people were seeking to create development on the property which is immediately adjacent to Princess Juliana SXM Airport. In fact, a building he wanted to erect near the entrance to his resort was shot down by the airport since it appeared to compromised airspace in use by small aircraft approaching the runway on return trips from nearby islands.

Now, people apparently representing Sidhom may want to put something in the ocean next to the resort but it's not perfectly clear exactly what. Some people believe that they may want to put a Dolphinarium there, an idea that has been broached before and shot down more than once on SXM. Decision-makers in the island government were inundated with objections when a plan including a Dolphinarium was broached several years back. Those objecting to projects like this cited numerous reports which appeared to prove that the lives of dolphins are routinely cut seriously short by confinement in a Dolphinarium.

Dolphins are extremely intelligent mammals, and many contend they should never be cooped up for human entertainment.

Here is much more on this story. [Development offshore here](#) — whether it's a Dolphinarium or any structure built on coral — is a bad idea. During hurricanes, this area routinely gets obliterated. Coral should not be compromised and neither should the natural environment of the area. Perhaps Mr. Sidhom would benefit from further seriously contemplating that.

23. St. Maarten General Hospital Construction Resumes

Delayed by the Covid 19 pandemic, construction of the all-new St. Maarten General Hospital on land adjacent to the current St. Maarten Medical Center is now resuming.

Once construction is finished in two or three years, SXM will have a brand-new state-of-the-art facility capable of better handling medical procedures needed on the island *locally*, instead of having local residents go to Columbia or elsewhere for treatment previously not available on SXM.

The long-term gains offered by the new hospital will require some short-term inconvenience due to construction — some dust, noise, traffic deviations, and more should be expected in this area. Here is [more](#) on this story.

24. Lawyers Don't Like Being Sprayed With Disinfectant

For people who love SXM but don't live there the entire year, some of the headlines emanating from the island at times are truly entertaining — such as the one that introduced you to this article.

It's true: it appears that criminal defense lawyers serving people who for whatever reason are currently residing at the prison atop Point Blanche near Philipsburg have reacted with a bit of hostility to being sprayed with disinfectant upon entering the building.

As has been the case in other prisons overseas, some prison residents have come down with Covid 19. It appears logical to assume that lawyers were singled out for spraying with disinfectant in an effort to stop the arrival of Covid-infected individuals anywhere near the prison.

That didn't sit well with the lawyers, however, who — seeing what airport employees recently did (see story 2) decided to stage a strike apparently to protest being sprayed with disinfectant. It strikes us that there are probably a number of people in governments elsewhere who would think it is perfectly fine to spray people with disinfectant — inmates, lawyers, politicians, and perhaps telephone spammers as well. (We disagree.)

In any case, we promise to keep an eye on [this](#) and we'll let you know which way the wind blows.

25. Illegally Parked Cars to be Towed, Crushed, & Melted?

If you been going to a Chili's Restaurant in the US for any number of years, the phrase "illegally parked cars will be towed, crushed, and melted" may be familiar to you: it's part of their no parking signage.

Perhaps the Dutch side should try it in St. Maarten. There have been increased numbers of cars parked illegally on the sidewalks of Philipsburg and also on the Great Bay beach promenade, popularly referred to as the boardwalk.

Now, the Dutch side government says it will have none of this. You may be relieved to know that it has no plans to spray disinfectant, though perhaps some of them could use it. Instead, they planned to tow the cars without further notice and charge the illegal parkers a hefty fine. Our perspective is that towed, crushed, and melted has a nice ring to it and may be a more nearly perfect, long-term solution....

Here is the official comment:

Illegal parking in Philipsburg will no longer be tolerated.

Over the past few days, the Sint Maarten Police Patrols (KPSM) , has observed a huge increase in illegal parking on the Boardwalk in Philipsburg.

We would like to, through this press release, warn the general public that if your vehicle is parked in an non designated parking area you will be ticketed with a hefty fine.

This warning also applies to persons who park their vehicles on the sidewalk on front-street. Avoid being ticketed, park in government-designated parking spaces.

Illegal parking will no longer be tolerated.

26. Going Anywhere? Pack Peace-of-Mind With SkyMed

In recent weeks, SkyMed international has offered six months of free protection as a bonus to people who opt to sign up for their top global membership, the five-year SkyMed Ultimate. This membership provides **SkyMed takes you home®** medical evacuation protection throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus a suite of additional benefits for protection in the rest of the world. A complete list of all SkyMed Features is [here](#). And answers to frequently asked questions concerning SkyMed are [here](#). (These are both PDFs.)

SkyMed's offer of six months of free protection when you opt for a five-year SKYMED ultimate EXPIRES soon. You can sign up for it after watching a SkyMed webinar or simply by calling Jeff directly during regular office hours at JMB Communications on his private number, 508-747-8281.

If you are renewing an existing annual SkyMed membership, Jeff can help you get a free three month bonus on your renewal with no increase in cost. Call Jeff daytimes at 508-747-8281 for more information or to get this bonus. SkyMed memberships can be renewed as much as 18 months before they expire.

27. 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.

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

[This](#) is our all-new copyrighted purple sand chair SXM Euro Oval. Big shipment recently 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.

29. 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

30. Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna

A number of years ago one Sunday morning on SXM, my wife got a hankering for a cup of coffee. We were miles from our usual coffee spot, tried a place that offered coffee in the Maho plaza area and found out how bad coffee can be, then looked around for someplace in Simpson Bay to get a decent cup of coffee.

Not far from the Simpson Bay drawbridge we saw the "Bagel House" and I said to Ilene why not try here? She groaned noncommittally, which I took as a yes, and toward the entrance I went. A young blonde woman sitting toward the back of the restaurant pointed at me and said "You're my Facebook friend." I'd never seen her before, so we did mutual introductions and I decided to try a bagel or two and get Ilene some coffee.

When I brought the coffee to the car Vesna — who owned the place — came along and said hello, and the friendship between Vesna, her husband Yannick, and Ilene and me has grown over the years.

Several years back, the restaurant now called "Vesna Taverna" relocated across the street to larger digs, where she now serves breakfast and lunch every day and dinner every night except Sunday and Monday. The food is terrific; the prices are very reasonable; and Vesna and Yannick are two of the most genuinely nice people you will ever have the good fortune to meet anywhere. We have given them our Culinary Award of Excellence every year for the last several years for Vesna Taverna.

Yes, they still have bagels — and the infamous Bagel Tower — among their breakfast choices. There are lots of sandwiches, delicious salads, smoothies, and more for lunch, and one night a week is Greek night along with their

regular menu — a delightfully satisfying collection of French and American entrées, desserts which can be truly called sumptuous, and an array of flavors, aromas, and textures which is unique to Vesna Taverna.

Just go, it's a wonderful little Informal restaurant.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 6/22/20). 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 6/15/20). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

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...

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.lavistasort.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.

31. 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.

32. 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

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 6/15/20)

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

Oro Diamante

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 6/15/20

**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.

36. 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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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)

6/22/20 #V3-1254 Noon EDT 6/20/20

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