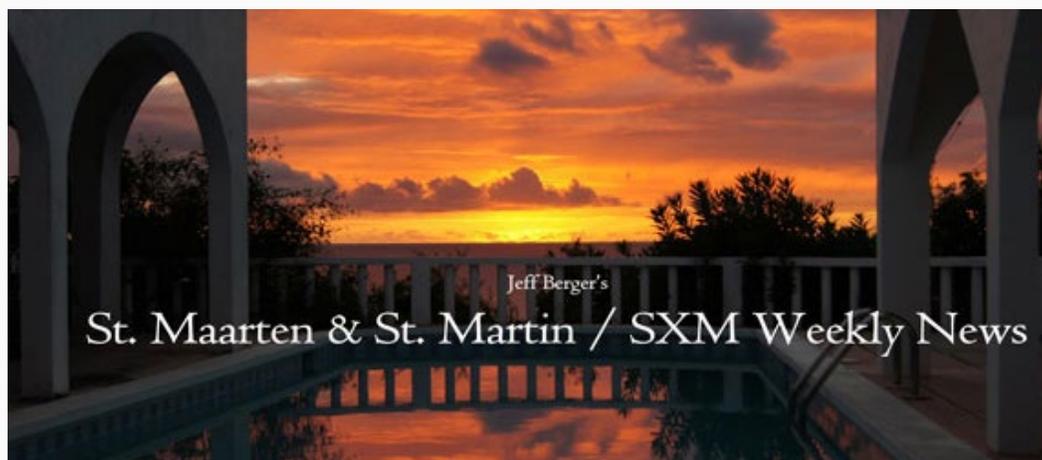


From JMB / SXM Weekly News, 8/17/20: Storm Possible Fri. Night, Sat.; "Hyperactive" Hurricane Season; New Flights from Montreal & Toronto; More on Proposed Nettle Bay Marriott; Dutch Side Works to Flatten the Curve; Anguilla Reopens; French Side Keeps Borders Closed; The Glacial Pace of US Passport Issuance [35 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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

Vol. 3, #1261 --- Monday, 8/17/20
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

Member News

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

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

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

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

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

Important Note:

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

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by about 342,000 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather: Getting Here:

###

-- Tropical Storm or Hurricane Likely to Affect SXM Friday, Saturday

###

- **"Hyperactive" Hurricane Activity Highly Likely: Rob Lightbown**
- **Update on 2020 Hurricane Names**
- **Current Requirements for US Citizens Going to SXM**
- **Attn. Canadiens: New Flights Coming From Montreal & Toronto**
- **Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info**
- **Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart**

SXM Accommodations:

- ###
- **Not So Fast: Proposed Nettle Bay Marriott Resort Faces Hurdles (PRN)**
 - **Timeshare Resorts Girding for a Rocky Few Months**
- ###
- **2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at EverythingSXM.com**
 - **How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units**
 - **Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info**

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- **PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE to Bring You Important News from SXM**
- **NOW EXTENDED: Get a Full Year Free Membership in our SXM Island Discount Program Thru "Plus One"**

- #####
- **Dutch Side Covid Numbers Rise Sharply as Testing Increases**
 - **Dutch Side Temporarily Shuttles Some Businesses to Flatten Curve**
 - **Anguilla Readies Reopening to Tourists**
 - **French side Extends Border Closure into September**
 - **US Passports, "Trusted Traveler" Credentials Taking Forever**
 - **SkyMed Launches Huge Fall Sale**
 - **SXM Needs Your Help...**
 - **Current SXM Travel Requirements for US Citizens**
 - **SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0; Ends Soon**

- #####
- **How to Put Incredible Caribbean Colors in Your Home**

- #####
- **SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0**
- #####
- **SkyMed's Six Months of Free Protection Offer Ends Soon**
 - **"Plus One" JMB Membership Promotion Underway**

- #####
- **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.

35 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete [Table of Contents](#)

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

RENTAL 10/17/2020 10/24/2020 Week 42 **Royal Islander Club La Plage One (1) bedroom unit, in beautiful Maho Village area.** Sleeps four (4) with king bed in private bedroom, and queen sofa sleeper in living room. Has a full kitchen and balcony, and awesome ocean and pool views. Watch the planes arrive and its situated right on the beach in Maho. Completely renovated, well maintained complex with great staff. Steps to a supermarket, several restaurants, beach and casino. Timeshare tax payable to resort at end of the week \$50. Week 43 also available in another 1 bedroom unit. \$900 per week Jennifer 703-303-6094 sales@jenniferspastries.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/23/2021 1/30/2021 Week 4 also see weeks 3,5,6 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Bougainvillea building overlooking pool:** 4th floor with elevator and fantastic views. 1 bedroom suite with king size bed sleeps 4 with 2 pullout Murphy beds; open plan full kitchen, dining area, living room. Two flat screen TVs; Deck looking west spacious views with spectacular sunsets. complete resort with several pools some with swim up bars, tennis courts, basketball, casino, several restaurants, shopping including groceries. Marina activities including boating and diving; beach with beach bar and more. \$8,000, multiple weeks purchases discounted Jim 508-362-2187 jbhegarty@comcast.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

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

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

Section One: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather

--Scroll Down To This Section--

1. Tropical Storm or Hurricane Likely to Affect SXM Friday, Saturday
2. "Hyperactive" Hurricane Activity Highly Likely: Rob Lightbown
3. It's a Big Deal: The Madden Julian Oscillation
4. Update on 2020 Hurricane Names
5. Current Requirements for US Citizens Going to SXM

6. Attn. Canadiens: New Flights Coming From Montreal & Toronto
7. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
8. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart
9. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

Section Two: Accommodations (Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.)

--Scroll Down To This Section--

10. Not So Fast: Proposed Nettle Bay Marriott Resort Faces Hurdles (PRN)
11. Timeshare Resorts Girding for a Rocky Few Months
12. 2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at Everythingxsm.com
13. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
14. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

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

Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

--Scroll Down To This Section--

15. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

16. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW to continue to send you SXM Weekly News every week:
17. Dutch Side Covid Numbers Rise Sharply as Testing Increases
18. Dutch Side Temporarily Shuttles Some Businesses to Flatten Curve
19. Anguilla Readies Reopening to Tourists
20. French side Extends Border Closure into September
21. US Passports, "Trusted Traveler" Credentials Taking Forever
22. "Lake Atrium" Drained: Billy Folly Road Dry Now
23. Rob Lightbown Joins Everything SXM as Chief Meteorologist
24. SkyMed Launches Huge Fall Sale
25. SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0; Ends 9/30
26. Restaurant of the Week:
27. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

28. Get a Little Bit of the Island in Your Home, NOW
29. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

#####

30. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
31. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
32. Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?
33. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
34. Please Patronize our Sponsors
35. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

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

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

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

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

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares

to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxsm.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. Tropical Storm or Hurricane Likely to Affect SXM Fri., Sat.

Rob Lightbown of CrownWeather.com said this morning that a tropical system currently located southwest of the Cabo Verde islands is likely to impact SXM this Friday night and Saturday, possibly either as a tropical storm or a hurricane. Although that event is several days away, he said that as of now (this morning) he was thinking the system could be a category 1 hurricane at the time of impact. Of course, predicting the course and intensity of any tropical cyclone several days ahead is difficult, so this system bears close watching all week long. For the latest information, please see posts by both Jeff Berger, Jeffrey Sochrin of Island92 radio, and Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather (see story 23) in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and see the weather center of our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com.

If your home or business is in an area that may at some point be visited by a tropical system, we urge you to seriously consider signing up for Rob Lightbown's surprisingly inexpensive private forecasting service, which we've used for years. It gives you his best in-depth analysis of where storms are likely to go and when they will be there — as well as their potential effects on land areas. It is indispensable information for anyone who may be affected by any tropical weather system. [Click this link](#) to learn more about Crown Weather Services.

2. "Hyperactive" Hurricane Activity Highly Likely: Rob Lightbown

In a recent Bulletin to his subscribers, Meteorologist Rob Lightbown said that he expected the period from late this week for about a month to be hyperactive in the tropical Atlantic, pointing directly to the high likelihood of an unusually high number of named storms during that period.

If your home or business is in an area that might be impacted by tropical weather, please see the second paragraph of the story above for information about what Crown Weather, our long-time partner, can do for you. Again, please check our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) for more information as each storm forms throughout the tropics.

3. It's a Big Deal: The Madden Julian Oscillation

Have you ever noticed the tropical storm formation seems to come in clusters — kind of like sneezes? While we can't begin to guess about why sneezes come in groups, a key cause of upticks in tropical cyclone generation is the Madden Julian Oscillation. It's a big deal -- and here's meteorologist Rob Lightbown's explanation of what it's all about:

The Madden Julian Oscillation is the biggest contributor to the variability we see in the tropical atmosphere (between sunshine and calm weather and frequent showers and thunderstorms with gusty winds) throughout the year. It is basically a link between the atmospheric circulation and tropical thunderstorm activity and travels from west to east year-round at a forward speed of between 9 and 18 mph.

The overall circulation pattern that is the Madden Julian Oscillation shows itself in the form of higher than average

rainfall and thunderstorm activity. The MJO cycle between suppressed rainfall and higher than average rainfall usually lasts between 30 and 60 days and travels from west to east across the entire tropical region of the Globe. Think of it as an area of concentrated energy and upward motion that is surrounded by sinking air.

So, when the upward motion pulse of the MJO reaches your area, it will be accompanied by frequent thunderstorms and above average rainfall. Once the upward motion pulse passes you, it will be followed by downward sinking air which will lead to dry, sunny weather and suppressed thunderstorm activity. Again, this cycle runs every 30 to 60 days with 45 days being the mid-point.

This means that roughly every 45 days, an upward motion pulse of the MJO should reach a specific point in the tropics across the Globe. So, say for instance one cycle of the upward motion of the MJO impacts the western Caribbean around the late part of May and early June. You should expect the next cycle of the upward motion pulse of the MJO in the western Caribbean about 45 days later or around the middle of July.

How Does The Madden Julian Oscillation Affect Tropical Cyclone Development?

It is well understood that there are periods of enhanced/suppressed tropical cyclone activity within any one hurricane season. There is quite a bit of evidence that the Madden Julian Oscillation controls whether we are in a period of enhanced activity or suppressed activity. The reason is that MJO provides the large scale environmental conditions necessary for tropical cyclone development. So, when we are in an upward motion phase of the MJO, it leads to widespread upward moving air, enhanced thunderstorm activity and a higher chance for tropical cyclone development.

On the other end of the scale, when there is a downward motion phase of the MJO, it leads to widespread sinking air and thus an environment that is not favorable for tropical cyclone development.

During any hurricane season, the MJO upward pulse is constantly pushing eastward across the tropics. As this MJO upward motion pulse moves eastward, the favored area for tropical cyclone activity will shift eastward from the western Pacific to the eastern Pacific and finally to the Atlantic Basin.

There is an inverse relationship between tropical cyclone activity in the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. When the Pacific is active with tropical cyclone activity, the Atlantic is usually quiet and vice versa. The main reason for this appears to be the phase of the Madden Julian Oscillation, which is usually in opposite modes between the two basins at any given time (upward motion in the Pacific, downward motion in the Atlantic).

It should be emphasized that the Madden Julian Oscillation is only one of many factors that contribute to the development of tropical cyclones. Sufficiently warm ocean waters, low wind shear and plenty of mid-level moisture is also needed for tropical cyclones to form and persist.

With that said, the Madden Julian Oscillation also influences these conditions that are favorable or not favorable for tropical cyclone formation. We are constantly monitoring the MJO throughout the hurricane season to try to predict periods of enhanced tropical cyclone activity or suppressed tropical cyclone activity.

Yes: it is a very big deal, and the Madden Julian Oscillation is moving into place in the tropical Atlantic as you read this.
-jmb

4. Update on 2020 Hurricane Names

As of Monday afternoon, listed below you will find the remaining names available for storms in the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season. Names in boldface type have already come and gone; the other names in the top list may possibly all be used this season.

Because this season may be busier than any preceding system in recorded Atlantic basin weather history, once all these names have been used the National Hurricane Center will move on and use letter names from the Greek alphabet, listed below. We'll publish more on this as the season progresses.

Arthur
Bertha
Cristobal
Dolly
Edouard
Fay
Gonzalo
Hanna
Isaias

Josephine

Kyle

Laura

Marco

Nana

Omar

Paulette

Rene

Sally

Teddy

Vicky

Wilfred

If all of these names are used before the end of the season and more storms form, the NHC will switch to the Greek alphabet, which includes these letters / names:

Alpha

Beta

Gamma

Delta

Epsilon

Zeta

Eta

Theta

Iota

Kappa

Lambda

Mu

Nu

Xi

Omicron

Pi

Rho

Sigma

Tau

Upsilon

Phi

Chi

Psi

Omega

5. Current Requirements for US Citizens Going to SXM

The island recently instituted new requirements to help ensure that people with Covid 19 are not permitted to enter the country. Those requirements state that Americans flying to SXM must have taken in RT – PCR test for Covid 19 and have been given a written complete negative report which they take with them on the trip. Details on exactly what information must be in the written report is in the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). You can also look directly [here](#), which is the Dutch side government site listing requirements.

There are also requirements for your trip to be approved in advance by the island government. To obtain such approval, you must go to SXM's special online website and fill out online forms regarding your health. The site where this information must be entered and the timing of such an entry are both listed in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

All this information is subject to change.

6. Attn. Canadiens: New Flights Coming From Montreal, Toronto

Canadians should be happy: New flights to SXM have now been announced from both Montréal and Toronto.

You'll find that [complete story here](#).

7. 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***

8. 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.)

9. 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.

10. Not So Fast: Nettle Bay Marriott Resort Faces Hurdles

Last week, we told you that Marriott intends to build a 168-room resort and spa in Nettle Bay, French St. Martin, west of Marigot near the French lowlands. We have been told that the site is near the former Dreams & Le Sand properties right on Nettle Bay.

However, according to French side sources, the Nettle Bay Marriott may not be a done deal. It appears that the proposed project may not be in tune with PRN regulations put in place after Irma that are intended to prevent building on floodplains — an obvious attempt to prevent catastrophic losses caused by projects constructed in what are considered to be vulnerable areas.

It seems to us that the project created by Harmony Promotion and Marriott International and a consortium of investors would not have been announced if there were not some kind of verbal agreement that it would be approved. Marriott has never been known as an organization that would announce anything remotely specious, and we don't think that's the case here either. As this project hopefully moves forward, we will keep you posted.

Here are some further details about this project from our previous story:

It looks like the beautiful stretch of Nettle Bay beach that was home to both the Dreams bar/restaurant and Le Sand, both obliterated by hurricane Irma three years ago next month, will be getting lots of new action: that's the location of a new 168-room Marriott Resort and Spa, construction of which starts next year. It's one of several big new hotel construction projects announced since Irma, about which we been publishing a steady stream of news stories here in SXM Weekly News.

According to details published in the SXM French-language newspaper Le Pelican, the project is being created by Harmony Promotion and Marriott International plus a consortium of investors. It will be a 5-star property featuring 168 rooms including 10 beach villas, four island villas, 22 suites, and 132 guest rooms and will be under a management contract with Marriott.

The project will also include a SPA / wellness center, two restaurants (one of them gourmet), reception and seminar rooms, a convention center, a shopping area, a Marina with eight luxury villas, and 52 apartments.

Le Pelican noted, "The site will be densely planted along the trails to ensure shaded traffic. The beach will remain a

privileged place for walking and will be uninterrupted. A central service backbone hidden by dense plantations (sic) will be accessible from the road and will bring together all the constructions related to the operation of the hotel, directly linked to public spaces and restaurants. Particular attention will be given to indirect lighting at night to ensure safety while preserving the atmosphere."

The article also noted that the project promises "... a new lease of life for the island's tourism industry wish: To replace Saint Martin on the World Luxury Tourism Map, to innovate by offering high-end service to visitors."

Harmony Promotion and Marriott International are said to be looking into developing a Hospitality School within this project as well, something that is long overdue on SXM.

*The **Marriott Lagoon Resort & Spa**, the Le Pelican article said, "will be built around a coral pool, a key element of the project. It is a sand-bottomed lagoon, supplied with filtered water from the sea, which structures and connects the entire project, both physically and symbolically."*

We expect to publish photos of the project in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) once construction begins.

Marriott has long been interested in building in SXM, and reportedly had an agreement in place to buy the Blue Mall in nearby Cupecoy Beach before Irma, when the project was apparently cancelled.

11. Timeshare Resorts Girding for a Rocky Few Months

SXM is still coping with the financial impact of hurricane Irma, which practically obliterated the island almost exactly three years ago. Despite many resorts reopening, the net number of hotel and timeshare rooms on the island, though recovering, is still down substantially from what it was before Irma.

On top of that, of course, came the Covid pandemic, which kept US tourists off the island from mid-March until early this month. Covid has had an enormous financial impact on SXM and because of it, only a relatively small percentage of normal US flights to SXM are now being flown. So: few tourists.

Seeing the numbers of Covid cases on the island increase in recent weeks, in concert with increased testing, both timeshare resorts, hotels, and other accommodations properties are looking at their options to keep their employees and guests safe, preserve capital, and also be able to prepare for and withstand impacts from the current "hyperactive" hurricane season. It's a tall order, but hospitality administrators across the island are a savvy lot who know their businesses extremely well and who are continuing to do their absolute best in all respects.

The decision to come to SXM is an intensely personal one which only visitors can make. We're not going to make any recommendations because of that specific fact. All we want you to know is that everyone on the island would like to welcome you back when you feel it is safe for you to return, and they are doing everything humanly possible to keep their hotels, restaurants, jewelry stores, etc. healthy, welcoming environments for you. They've done everything possible to be totally ready and are continuing to do so amid all the challenges we've noted.

SXM has a lot of amazing people.

12. 2020 - 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 everythingxsm.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](#). Please see the next story.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

16. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW to continue to send you *SXM Weekly News* every week:

*****THIS OFFER HAS JUST BEEN EXTENDED TO TUESDAY 9/8, THE DAY AFTER LABOR DAY.*****

Literally thousands of JMB members in recent weeks have told us they're ready to return to SXM as soon as it's safe to do so. Well, that time appears to be here; travel restarted 8/1, with requirement shown elsewhere in this edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

We know readers / JMB members have uncertainties -- for clearly obvious reasons. Our business has been adversely affected by Covid-19 as have most businesses worldwide and we need your help now to continue be able to research, write, produce, and distribute SXM Weekly News to you, its more than 344,000 worldwide readers every week as we have since 1992. That's why we're giving all readers who do multiyear new, renewal, or reinstated JMB memberships from now through 9/8/2020, a free "Plus One" additional full year of JMB membership. That's our thanks to you for helping us make it through this challenging period.

You'll certainly return within a year, since an effective vaccine appears likely to be available by next winter. So, take advantage of this unique, about-to-end offer and sign up for, renew, or reinstate today. Military / First Responder memberships are included.

New Memberships Get Great Benefits:

All our **new membership rates** except one-year new memberships have this same "Plus One" enticement, but it must end 9/8/20 (just extended). Here are our low regular new membership prices:

- **1 year \$59 (no "Plus One" one-year bonus)**
- **3 years \$109 plus you get an additional full Plus One year free.**
- **5 years \$139 plus you get an additional full Plus One year free.**

Sign up by going to everythingxsm.com and clicking the page curl.

Here are all the multiyear renewal / reinstatement rates for all current or former members: remember, you get "Plus One" in all of these – a full year on us in addition to the years stated:

- The **one-year** renewal or reinstatement does not offer "Plus One"... it remains \$49.
- **Three-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$89, plus you get an additional fourth year free. Offer ends 9/8/20.
- **Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get an additional seventh year free.** Offer ends 9/8/20.

You can do both renewals and reinstatements [right here](#), in our membership reinstatement center (prices are identical to renewals). For new memberships, click the page curl on our main site, everythingxsm.com, for info or to sign up. Your renewal begins when your current subscription ends. Reinstatements of expired memberships take just a few days to process. You can reinstate an old membership regardless of how many years ago it expired, too. We email you a new membership card once processing has been completed.

Military and First-Responder memberships offer you the usual four years for just \$67.96 (at \$16.99/year paid at inception) plus you get an additional fifth year free. That is the best deal we have ever offered anyone for any memberships, on a yearly basis. DD214 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required. Additional year offer ends 9/8/2020, so please act quickly.

We hope you are having a pleasant summer, **but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today to get that additional full-year Plus One bonus before it goes away 9/8, which is not far away.**

Don't want to use PayPal to sign up or renew (even though you need not be a PayPal member)? Just call our office any day from 8am to 8pm EDT at 508-830-3456 and we'll be happy to take your info by phone. If lines are busy and you get our answering system, you can leave your info on our secure line. We'll appreciate anything you can do to help.

If you already did this and have not yet received your membership materials, we're moving as quickly as we can with a Covid-reduced staff. We hope to be fully caught up by the end of the day Monday 8/ 24.

Jeff Berger / Tracy / Susan / Michael / Greg and the entire JMB team.
JMB Communications
P. O. Box 1812
Plymouth, MA 02362-1812

17. Dutch Side Covid Numbers Rise Sharply as Testing Increases

In recent weeks, there has been a substantial uptick in the amount of testing for Covid 19 being done on the Dutch side of the island. In the last few weeks alone, the total number of tests has increased from slightly over 600 to well over 1200 now.

The number of active Covid cases on the Dutch side was reported late last week to be around 200, most of whom have mild cases and are being treated at home in quarantine. People should expect numbers to continue rising as testing on the island continues to increase, as we wrote here in *SXM Weekly News* last week.

Although this news is concerning, at the end of the day it should also be somewhat reassuring since these cases are being discovered, quarantine, adequately treated, and contact tracing is being practiced religiously to track down contacts and additional cases that may have developed through them. This kind of system can ultimately help flatten the curve on the island. Please also see the next story which regards changes made by the island government to further stem local transmission.

18. Dutch Side Temporarily Shuttters Some Businesses to Flatten Curve

The Dutch side has ordered a two-week shutdown of several classes of business to help flatten the curve on the Covid 19 virus on SXM. According to a published announcement, those businesses are bars, nightclubs, discotheques, lounges (e.g. cigar lounges), and adult entertainment. Restaurants are NOT included but must close by 10pm. For updates during this week, see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

All of these businesses will be closed for at least the next two weeks. If new cases continue to be reported, the government says it may take additional measures as required. No consideration is currently being given to another shutdown, officials have said. New cases being found on the island are now from local spread and that is what the government is working to stop. Because of the measures taken to ensure that only healthy tourists enter the island, tourists from the US appear not to be involved in any additional introduction of Covid into the local population.

As always, we will continue to keep you aware of all government restrictions and requirements for US tourists and will list them both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

19. Anguilla Readies Reopening to Tourists

Anguilla, the neighboring island to the northwest over the straits outside Marigot, after being shuttered to tourists for the last six months, reopens August 21. Much more about "everything Anguilla" is in [Anguilla Beaches](#) by our friend Nori Evoy.

20. French side Extends Border Closure into September

Ever since the Dutch side reopened its airport to flights from the US, the French side has closed the national border, allowing virtually no traffic between the sides of the island. This step has been taken by the French side Prefet in response to the high number of Covid deaths in the US, now over 170,000 and expected to top 200,000 within the next few weeks.

Passengers coming to the Dutch side from the US must past rigid Covid testing requirements before they are allowed to leave the USA. By all measures, they currently appear not to be bringing any Covid illness into SXM. We know French side working people are unhappy about the border closure as of course are French side business owners. We will continue to update you on this situation here in *SXM Weekly News*. If you have SXM tourist friends who want to be receiving these same updates, please suggest to them that they subscribe free to SXM Weekly News at SXMWeeklyNews.com.

21. US Passports, "Trusted Traveler" Credentials Taking Forever

If your passport was due for expiration at any time this year or if you had applied for new or renewal trusted traveler credentials such as joining the Department of Homeland Security Pre-Check program or its Global Entry Program, you already know that all of this has pretty much ground to a halt thanks to the impact of the Covid pandemic. You cannot travel outside the US without a valid US passport, and trusted traveler credentials help you move through security lines faster.

For more information on the status of new US passports or passport renewals, the US State Department says this: You may check the **status** of your **passport** online or by calling the National **Passport** Information Center at 1-877-487-2778. Online, [go here](#).

For more information on the status of trusted traveler program new or renewal applications, go [here](#).

22. "Lake Atrium" Drained: Billy Folly Road Dry Now

Substantial residential and commercial development and paving throughout the Billy Folly area in Pelican, next to Simpson Bay, for the last few years has enabled rainwater to cascade down streets into Billy Folly road forming what we have called Lake Atrium between Atrium Resort and Baker's Suites all-suites hotel. The water has been several inches deep and seems to stay there for days.

The government has heard complaints from individuals and businesses who reside or work in the area and has just completed drainage works which it believes will solve the problem. We hope they're right: there is much pedestrian traffic in the area and getting through Lake Atrium when you're trying to walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner or home from the beach has never been on anyone's desired activities list.

Of course, since water coming down the hill brings a lot of sand and debris with it. All that stuff will wind up going into the new drainage system which will certainly require periodic cleaning to ensure that it works properly going forward.

As always, we'll keep you posted on what happens. If you're in that area, please don't hesitate to photograph the road between Baker's Suites and Atrium Resort after any rainstorms on our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) so we can see how things look.

23. Rob Lightbown Joins Everything SXM as Chief Meteorologist

Rob Lightbown of crownweather.com, our long-time-go-to source for clear and unambiguous tropical weather updates, and forecasts, has agreed to be the Chief Meteorologist for *SXM Weekly News*. As such, he will continue to help keep our readers and those in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) posted on the latest important tropical weather info.

If your home or business is in an area that may at some point be visited by a tropical system, we urge you to seriously consider signing up for Rob Lightbown's surprisingly inexpensive private forecasting service, which we've used for years. It gives you his best in-depth analysis of where storms are likely to go and when they will be there — as well as their potential effects on land areas. It is indispensable information for anyone who may be affected by any tropical weather system. [Click this link](#) to learn more about Crown Weather Services.

24. SkyMed Launches Huge Fall Sale

Authorities are saying that within the next few months, a vaccine will be introduced that is expected to substantially deflate the Covid 19 pandemic. **SkyMed is launching its biggest sale ever but that sale will end on September 30.** It offers people who buy a new SkyMed ultimate medical evacuation membership up to six months free of additional protection. That's a big deal for when you start traveling again.

You'll find an overview of all key **SkyMed Features & Services** here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find **Frequently Asked Questions** here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2020SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

Under this SkyMed Fall Sale, you can get up to six months of free protection when you buy a new five-year SkyMed Ultimate membership or upgrade to one from another annual or longer SkyMed membership. There are also offers for annual membership renewals. There will never be a better time to obtain SkyMed medical evacuation protection than now. Remember too that for the first three months of new annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships, protection for pre-existing conditions is briefly excluded during the first 90 days. Get an Ultimate membership now, and you can get up to six months free; if you're not traveling for at least 90 days, even pre-existing conditions will be covered according to the provisions in your membership once you do travel.

SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when you travel anywhere the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is also available on an optional basis

For answers to questions or to sign up, please call Jeff directly on his private line, 508-747-8281 weekdays from 8 AM until 8 PM EDT. He'll return your call as quickly as possible. Again, SkyMed *TAKES YOU HOME*® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. What else matters?

25. 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.

26. Restaurant of the Week:

This series is temporarily suspended for the next few low-season weeks. Please see all our recent selections below.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Emilio's just outside Philipsburg (featured 8/10/20) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. Not to be missed. <https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 7/27/20). Italian. Excellent food, many choices (pizza too), busy, good specials. Lively; busy; entertainment some nights. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers. www.isolaristorante.com

Sale & Pepe (featured 7/20/20) Cool location among breathtaking megayachts, cool decor, knowledgeable staff, and extensive menu, good service, and delicious food. Chef Davide Zagami stays mostly in the kitchen ensuring things go just right. <https://www.facebook.com/saleandpepemarina/>

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 7/13/20: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 7/6/20) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 6/29/20 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.

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...

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.

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 Sushiiitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushiiitto, 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) Closed permanently.

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.

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 everything.sxm.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. 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 7/27/20)

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](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#) NEW!

Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

MAPS

[Kasprowski Publishers](#)

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)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

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.

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?>

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2019. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. *Everything St. Maarten*, *Everything SXM*, and *Everything St. Martin* are service marks of JMB Communications. *JMB Communications* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

8/17/20 #V3-1261 5P EDT 8/17/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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

###