

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 6/7/21: SXM Timesharing Special Issue - Ocean Club, Towers at Mullet Bay, Caravanserai, Royal Islander Great Bay, Simpson Bay Resort; AA Dallas-SXM Nonstops Begin; UA's Supersonic Jet Order; Where We're Posting 2021 Hurricane Info; French Side Curfew Status Update; GEBE's Reliability Issues; Attention Celebrity Millennium Passengers [Issue #1301 -- 51 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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



Vol. 4, #1301 --- Monday, June 7, 2021
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

SXM TIMESHARING SPECIAL EDITION

Entire Contents Copyright, ©, JMB Communications, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812, 2021.
World rights reserved.

[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, 2021. 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 more than 355,000 people around the world...

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook, MeWe, and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather; Getting Here; Covid:

- ***AA Dallas-SXM Nonstops Begin***
- ***UA's New Supersonic Airliner Order - Is it for Real?***
- ***Details About the 2021 Hurricane Season***
- ***Dutch Side Will Soon Stop Requiring Covid Testing for People Who Are Fully Vaccinated***
- ***If Your Passport Is Within 6 Months of Expiring Before Your Next Trip, Renew Pronto***
- ***Where To Find Our JUST UPDATED "Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements"***
- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***

SXM Accommodations:

- ***SXM Timesharing Special Edition (First of Two Parts)***
- ***Condo Sales Continue Through the Roof - Who to Contact***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help***
- ***How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info***

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- ***Yet Another French Side Motorbike Fatality***
- ***French Side Curfew Status Update***
- ***GEBE's Never-Ending Reliability Issues***
- ***Water Issues at Orient Beach***
- ***Attention Celebrity Millennium Passengers: Don't Fly to SXM on a Saturday***
- ***SCUBA Diving***
- ***Kite Surfing***
- ***Think About Where You're Going - And About This***
- ***Restaurant of the Week: Isola***
- ***LAST DAYS to Enter Our Orient Beach Hotel Vacation Giveaway! Drawing June 28!***
- ***ENTRIES CLOSE SOON: Enter our Vacation Giveaway - A Week at the All-New Orient Beach Hotel***
- ***Huge SkyMed Medevac Membership Sale ENDS SOON***
- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***

-- ***Get SkyMed Medevac Protection BEFORE You Need It***
#####

-- ***Please Patronize JMB Sponsors***

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

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

In This Issue: 51 News Stories

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 8/14/2021 8/21/2021 Week 33 **Sapphire Beach Club & Resort Beautiful, and breathtaking views from penthouse unit. Two bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, sleeps 6. Private pool, and jacuzzi, lounge deck area, and bar-b-que. Full kitchen, dining, and living room. T.V.'s in both bedrooms, and living room. Unit has washer/dryer. Restaurant/bar poolside, grocery, gym, salon, masseuse. Garage parking is an option. Unit has been fully refurbished.** You will not be disappointed, beautiful unit, island, and people. Watch sunset, sailboats, total tranquility. \$1,800.00 Cathy (727) 215-4195 cathyrocco7@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 8/14/2021 8/21/2021 Week 33 **Sapphire Beach Club & Resort Penthouse is fully refurbished, with breathtaking views, and total tranquility. Private Pool, and jacuzzi. Two bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, sleeps 6. T.V.'s in both bedrooms, and living room. Full kitchen, dining, and living room. Bar-b-q on pool deck, lounge chairs, tranquility. Garage parking is an option. Many amenities on site: Salon, gym, grocery, masseuse, car rental, shops. Concierge on site to book, any or all of your excursions. You will not be disappointed. beautiful island, wonderful memories. \$6500.00 was \$15,000.00** Cathy (727) 215-4195 cathyrocco7@gmail.com

See them all at http://everythingsexm.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 All-New "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group

<https://mewe.com/join/jeffbergerseverythingsxmewegroup>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.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

Complete Table of Contents

Section One: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, COVID-19, Going Home, Etc. -- **Scroll Down To This Section--**

Getting Here:

LEAD STORY: Inaugural nonstop from DFW Lands in SXM

1. Great PR, But Poor Reality: The UA "Order" for Supersonic Jets
2. Repeat: Dutch Side Will Soon Stop Requiring Covid Testing for People Who Are Fully Vaccinated
3. Repeat: If Your Passport Is Within 6 Months of Expiring Before Your Next Trip, Renew Pronto

4. Where To Find Our JUST UPDATED "Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements"

Weather:

5. Hurricane Season Begins: All the Newest Names
6. When Tropical Mischief Might Begin
7. Reminder: About Our New **Daily** Tropical Outlooks
8. Reminder: Hurricane Preparations Heads Up from Rob Lightbown
9. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
10. Where to Download The Official NHC Hurricane Chart

COVID-19 - General Information

11. Important Covid Information Has Moved...

COVID-19 - Our Complete Guide to Entry Requirements

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE GUIDE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

12. Our Continually Revised Guide to SXM Entry Requirements Has Moved

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

13. Our Info on US-Required Covid Testing Before You Go Home Has Moved

Etc.:

14. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

15. From Eric Loor at Ocean Club, Not a Word
16. From SXM Re: Towers at Mullet Bay, Not a Word
17. From SXM to Caravanserai Timeshare Owners, Not a Word...
- 17a. Royal Islander Great Bay
18. About Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection
19. Simpson Bay Resort Continues To Work Around the Clock to Recover Its Telecommunications -- Here's What's Happening & What to Do
20. Entries to our One-Week Orient Beach Club Vacation Giveaway Extended Briefly
21. Condo Sales Continue Through the Roof - Who to Contact
22. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help
23. Where to Find SXM Condo Rentals for 2021-22
24. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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--

25. Updated News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 5/3/21)

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

26. Been Thinking of SkyMed? Why NOW Is the Best Time To Pull The Trigger on SkyMed Medevac Protection: Only \$1.35/day for Ongoing SkyMed Protection!

Up to 21 Free Weeks added with new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases! Details are right here:

THIS WEEK'S TOP ISLAND NEWS:

27. PLEASE HELP KEEP SXM WEEKLY NEWS COMING

28. Dutch Side to Drop Covid Testing Requirements for Fully Vaccinated Visitors

- 29. Yet Another French Side Motorbike Fatality
- 30. French Side Curfew Status Update
- 31. GEBE's Never-Ending Reliability Issues
- 32. Water Issues at Orient Beach
- 33. Attention Celebrity Millennium Passengers: Don't Fly to SXM on a Saturday
- 34. Food for Thought? St. Kitts, Nevis To Admit Only Fully Vaccinated Visitors
- 35. Star Wars Fans: Visit Nick Maley's The Yoda Guy Museum in Philipsburg
- 36. Kite Sailing in SXM
- 37. Scuba Diving in SXM
- 38. Where / When SkyMed Covers You
- 39. Think About Traveling - And Think About This:

- 40. Restaurant of the Week: Isola
- 41. Join Our New Conversational SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative
- 42. Going Home? Check Your State's / Country's Return Policies
- 43. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

44. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

#####

- 45. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
- 46. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
- 47. Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?
- 48. Please Patronize our Sponsors
- 49. 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://everythingsxm.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 Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, and COVID-19

GETTING HERE:

LEAD STORY: Inaugural nonstop from DFW Lands in SXM

American Airlines' new seasonal Saturday nonstop from Dallas-Fort Worth airport to SXM — enabling people from the Intermountain West and the West Coast to get to SXM more quickly than before — landed with a water cannon salute this past Saturday in SXM.

The flights are expected to be flying for some time and if they get the required passenger support, there's the potential for this to become a year-round flight....

If you're from Texas or the Southwest or the Intermountain West or the West Coast definitely consider getting to Dallas and making this your flight over the next few months.

1. Great PR, But Is it Reality? On The UA "Order" for Supersonic Jets

United Airlines this week announced an agreement with an aerospace company called Boom in Colorado to buy 15 supersonic passenger jets that Boom intends to manufacture a few years from now.

Boom is a company that most people have never heard of. It is their intent to bring back commercial supersonic travel which has been nonexistent since the long-obsolete Concorde jet was retired from commercial service a number of years ago after a horrible accident in Europe (Air France flight 4590 in July, 2000) killed all aboard after takeoff.

The text of United's announcement is [here](#), and background information about Boom Supersonic is [here](#).

Although Boom is virtually unknown to prospective airline passengers, nonetheless it is partnering with experienced aerospace players and will be working hard to get a concept airliner built and tested in the next few years and to develop and deploy actual "Overture" airliners by 2029.

How real is this entire idea?

Boom is still a largely unknown commodity that has not yet built any airplanes. The safety of air travel is a huge concern for airline passengers, especially those who are savvy about the aircraft in which they are flying. Even Boeing, which has been building commercial aircraft for many decades, has had enormous problems with quality on both its 737 MAX and some of its 787 airliners. It remains to be seen whether many passengers would be willing to board an entirely new aircraft supposedly capable of supersonic speeds that has been built by a company with zero experience in this vertical commercial demographic; that alone is a huge challenge.

On the other hand, it is partnering with a number of other companies seasoned in the aircraft business and has attracted substantial venture capital.

We'll keep our eye on Boom and its "Overture" airplane as it proceeds.

2. Repeat: Dutch Side Will Soon Stop Requiring Covid Testing for People Who Are Fully Vaccinated

In an announcement more than a week ago which we immediately communicated to members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program and to members of our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), the SXM government announced that it would soon stop requiring Covid testing for Americans who have been fully vaccinated against Covid.

No information was released about when this new policy will go into force, how it will be implemented, what its impact might be on children, or whether the government has any information on whether the United States is going to alter its current testing requirement before Americans visiting overseas return home. When we have that information, we will publish it immediately to our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members and in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), as well as in the next edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

3. Repeat: If Your Passport Is Within 6 Months of Expiring Before Your Next Trip, Renew Pronto

It's important to make sure before you travel that your passport is valid at least six months beyond the end of your trip. If

that is not the case we urge you to renew your passport now.

Because of the sudden increase in travel, the demand on the US government for passport renewals is huge. There have been delays recently of months for passport renewals or new passports, and delays of several weeks even for expedited service which is available at higher cost.

Before Renewing, we strongly suggest you go on our everything SXM Facebook group and post something asking if people in your area or elsewhere are receiving anything remotely resembling expeditious service for their new passports or passport renewals. Give yourself extra time regardless of their response, to make sure you have adequate space in your calendar to receive your new passports well before your trip begins.

You have a lot of company going after passports so do leave yourself plenty of time.

4. Where To Find Our JUST UPDATED "Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements"

Ever since SXM first instituted Entry Requirements more than a year ago, we have published those requirements in-depth here in SXM Weekly News. However, since the pandemic appears to be starting to ease, we have removed it from weekly news but continue to run it (continually updated) in the files area of our everything SXM Facebook group, at this web address: www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM/files. If you don't see the entry Requirements near the beginning of the list of files, use the search window in the files area for the word Entry and the latest version of our entry Requirements will appear right away. Bear in mind that whenever we make any changes in our entry Requirements listings, the updated entry Requirements will appear at once among our active threads.

In addition, if there are any major changes to entry Requirements, that is news that we will cover it here in SXM Weekly News as usual.

WEATHER:

5. Hurricane Season Begins: All the Newest Names

As we have reported here, the 2021 hurricane season has now begun. Ana, the first storm of the year spun up more than a week ago northeast of Bermuda and quickly whirled away, a matter of concern only to maritime interests. The naming of hurricanes during the 2021 season difference from what was done before.

In recent years, when the 21 names chosen for storms in any given year has been exhausted, letters of the Greek alphabet were utilized. That has been stopped effective this year. The main group of names for storms forming this year is: **Ana**, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Elsa, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Julian, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, Wanda.

If these names are exhausted, a new supplemental list of names will be utilized. Those names are: Adria, Braylen, Caridad, Deshawn, Emery, Foster, Gemma, Heath, Isla, Jacobus, Kenzie, Lucio, Makayla, Nolan, Orlanda, Pax, Ronin, Sophie, Tayshaun, Viviana, and Will.

As we also mentioned last week, when a tropical system threatens the US or Canadian Atlantic, Caribbean, or Gulf coasts, we will broadcast that information at night every night and we will also post watches, warnings, and advisories in real time as they are issued around-the-clock in the Weather Center of our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com.

6. When Tropical Mischief Might Begin

We're not going to get into defining what the Madden Julian oscillation is here: suffice it to say that it's an oscillation that moves around the world at a regular pace near the equator, and that facilitates tropical development during hurricane season when it is in the Caribbean or the tropical Atlantic.

The Madden Julian oscillation is something that should motivate you to stock your cellar with canned food, a can opener, and lots of bottled water beyond what you might normally do as part of customary annual hurricane preparations. *But what it should also do is intensify the attention you pay to what's going on in the tropical Atlantic.*

The Madden Julian oscillation will be in our part of the woods — meaning the tropical Atlantic and the Caribbean — a bit later this month. What that means is that what our chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown calls tropical mischief in some

form or another could occur later this month. *That does NOT mean there will be any impact of any kind on SXM during this period but it does mean we should pay attention, as always during hurricane season.*

As mentioned in the previous article, we will be publishing Tropical Outlooks every day in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) so you know what the likelihood is of there being any tropical formation in the tropical Atlantic or Caribbean or the Gulf of Mexico within the following five days. When that happens, we will also be publishing any advisories, watches, or warnings that are issued by the National Hurricane Center.

Our 2021 hurricane season Weather Center in our everything SXM main site, [everythingSXM.com](#), is 100% ready for the hurricane season that has just begun. We have modified the area where we automatically and instantaneously post watches, warnings, and advisories so they are listed by named storms, enabling you to see, quickly and easily, exactly what is happening at any time in the tropics that may be of interest to fans of St. Maarten or to people who may live along the US or Canadian Atlantic or Gulf Coast, or in the Caribbean.

Whatever course this season takes, we will be prepared to alter how we handle the news to make sure that our JMB members get the word as quickly as humanly possible if or when something of material interest happens.

7. About Our New Daily Tropical Outlooks

Effective earlier this week, we started posting daily Tropical Outlooks in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#) at some point during each day. If some tropical activity is underway, our posts will generally be happening in the evening. But if nothing is going on, our Tropical Outlooks from the National Hurricane Center may be posted at any time during the day.

We are also making sure that significant information is posted every day in the weather center of our main website, [everythingSXM.com](#).

8. Repeat: 2021 Hurricane Preparations Heads Up from Rob Lightbown

Storm forecasting specialists Crown Weather, our go-to source of accurate, reliable hurricane information for many years, is already issuing tropical updates to its subscribers. We have long recommended that if you are ever in the path of any tropical storm or hurricane, you subscribe to their immensely valuable but very inexpensive service; for more info, see [www.CrownWeather.com](#).

This past week, crown weather issued a very important bulletin concerning 2021 hurricane preparations; here is that text:

Finally, I wanted to mention one thing to keep in mind when making your hurricane preparations this season & that is the marked increase in supplies, especially building supplies. Building supplies, especially lumber, has doubled & even tripled in just the past year due to the whole "supply and demand". So, when making your preparations this season & you think you may need plywood for your windows or other construction items, buy early because it's quite possible, if not likely, that plywood, lumber and other items will be sold out long before any Hurricane Warnings go up. It's a real complicating factor going into this hurricane season.

9. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info (Revised 3/8/21)

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](#).

Here are four more sources of current weather info:

- 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.*

10. Where to Download an Official NHC Hurricane Chart

You can get it right here: [click to download](#).

Or read this:

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 now 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. You might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

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***

COVID-19: General Information

11. Important Covid Information Has Moved...

We have moved our complete coverage of Covid, including Entry Requirements, to the Files area of our Everything SXM Facebook Group. Click [here](#) to access that info, then use the search window to find "Entry" and you'll see the correct file.

COVID-19: Guide to Entry Requirements - Please Read and Retain - REVISED 5/17/2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE GUIDE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

12. Our Continually Revised Guide to SXM Entry Requirements Has Moved

We now publish our complete Guide to Entry Requirements only in the files area of our everything SXM Facebook group. Because the Pandemic is starting to cool down in the US, there is no need for it to appear in both places. There, online, we have the ability to make changes in seconds, a key asset regarding Pandemic news and entry requirements changes. That's why we have done this. We urge you to go to the files area now at facebook.com/groups/mySXM/files, then use the search window to search for Entry and the entire guide to entry requirements will be on your computer or other device. We won't stop publishing news about Covid and its impacts on SXM tourism, but we have now

stopped publishing the guide here every week. Please make a note of this so you will be able to access the guide anytime you want online.

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

13. Our Info on US-Required Covid Testing Before You Go Home Has Moved

We now publish our Info on US-Required Covid Testing only in the files area of our Everything SXM Facebook group. Because the Pandemic is starting to cool down in the US, there is no need for it to appear in both places. There, online, we have the ability to make changes in seconds, a key asset regarding Pandemic news and entry requirements changes. That's why we have done this. We urge you to go to the files area now at facebook.com/groups/mySXM/files, then use the search window to search for Entry and the entire guide to entry requirements will be on your computer or other device. We won't stop publishing news about Covid and its impacts on SXM tourism, but we have now stopped publishing the guide here every week. Please make a note of this so you will be able to access the guide anytime you want online.

Etc.

14. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees 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 15% 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

15. From Eric Loor at Ocean Club, Not a Word

Although we haven't covered this topic recently, there is a population of many hundreds of SXM visitors who follow it closely and are learning nothing: they are the people who owned timesharing at Ocean Club resort, ripped to shreds by hurricane Irma almost 4 years ago.

The remains of the wooden resort that stood on this property in Cupecoy and was home away from home for many vacationers are basically unchanged. Widely believed to have been at the epicenter of a direct hit from one of many tornadoes spun up by hurricane Irma, the area continues to be essentially piles of lumber into which humans shouldn't venture.

Most of this mess is still there, still not yet fully demolished by Eric Loor who was (and we believe remains) the owner. Ocean Club timeshare owners are saying they still have heard nothing substantive from Mr. Loor about the future of the resort or the future of their ownership in it. What some did receive by email (which as far as we know is not considered a legal form of communication) was an official-looking request that they formally agree to opt out of their

contract. While timeshare owners continue to count their losses, the government of the island seems to remain mum.

There is a [Facebook group of Ocean Club Timeshare Owners](#) who we believe would like to make something happen there. So far, their efforts don't seem to have resulted in any significant comments or response from Mr. Looor. If you'd like to look into the Facebook group that's involved in this, please visit their site:

We would also be happy to publish any public comments any Ocean Club timeshare owners, Ocean Club former officials, or SXM government parliamentary or ministerial official would like to make to Ocean Club timeshare owners about this current SXM timesharing mess.

16. From SXM Re: Towers at Mullet Bay, Not a Word

It would seem to us that the happiness and well-being of timeshare owners on SXM would be a primary objective of the Dutch side government. The reason: a majority of stay-over visitors on the island stay in Dutch side timeshare resorts. Although most SXM timeshare resorts are high-quality organizations providing an outstanding level of service and product to SXM visitors, a few don't. Worse, some continue to send bills to timeshare owners for weeks that are no longer available for them to use.

The Towers at Mullet Bay resort, near the northern end of SXM's only golf course and a few minutes walk from Mullet Bay beach, has not been available since shortly after Irma hit. There were financial issues with the organizations that owned the Towers and as we understand it, the government wanted those financial issues straightened out before it would allow the resort to reopen. And so the resort remains shuttered and timeshare owners are left with nothing usable nearly four years later and wondering who is looking out for their interests.

Please read on.

17. From SXM to Caravanserai Timeshare Owners, Not a Word...

Caravanserai resort was a timesharing resort just south of the western end of the Princess Juliana airport runway. It went belly up several years ago. Credit Card magnate Ray Sidhom bought it out of bankruptcy and immediately emailed whatever number of timeshare owners for which he had some kind of email contact information and told them that he was canceling the contracts they had bought for timeshare units on the property: those timeshare units were being declared "null and void" by Mr. Sidhom.

Millions of dollars had been spent by thousands of timeshare owners to buy a piece of paradise and in one fell swoop, Mr. Sidhom sought to take it over and leave them nothing. There was no offer of any kind of compensation, either.

Once again, timeshare owner consumer protection legislation which had been languishing in the Dutch side Parliament for years just sat there, occasionally receiving faint praise from an assortment of politicians who then did nothing to advance it and help the cause of timeshare owners across the island.

Some people have criticized timeshare ownership saying that the people who buy it really own nothing. But the fact is that when they buy a piece of paradise, they buy the intent to visit the island once a year or multiple times every year and put a substantial amount of money into the island economy in so doing. That is a big deal and it should receive more than empty smiles from politicians who have repeatedly done nothing notable to protect the interests of timeshare owners. We realize most t/share owners are Americans who don't vote on the island. But they can and DO vote -- with their feet and with their wallets. They can easily turn around and go to other islands.

Caravanserai timeshare owners are no better off now than they were when this happened several years ago. Those who joined legal action against the owners of the property are still fighting in the legal system without any apparent help from anyone on the island.

Please read on.

17a: Royal Islander Club Great Bay

Although many people don't realize it, there are actually three "Royal Islander" properties on SXM: La Plage, on the beach at Maho; Le Terrasse, across the street from that beach, also in the Maho area; and Great Bay, the only building still standing where the Great Bay Beach Hotel had been until Category 5 hurricane Irma destroyed it in 2017, not long after it had undergone millions of dollars in renovations.

This property was bought from Sonesta by Sunwing of Canada whose announced intent was to build a Planet Hollywood there. They appeared to secure the Royal Islander property months after Irma had hit, but there has been no other apparent activity at Royal Islander Great Bay ever since.

So those timeshare owners -- as we wrote here just a few weeks ago -- are also in limbo, and it's not the fun kind you do on a beach...

18. About Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection

Timesharing is big business in SXM. It has enabled tens of thousands of people to buy a piece of paradise — literally — and return to the island every year, where they develop relationships with restaurant owners, jewelers, car rental companies, and of course the employees of their timeshare resort. The vast majority of them have never regretted their purchases and thousands of them in fact have now bought investment condos on the island, which has a booming business welcoming full ownership SXM condo residents.

Timesharing provides many hundreds of jobs to hard-working island residents and pumps millions of dollars every year into the island economy. We believe timeshare owners have a right to expect that they'll be treated with respect and dignity by the timeshare businesses that are serving them — and indeed, most timeshare resorts work hard to deliver a fine product at a reasonable price. Historically, the vast majority of them have bent over backwards to do so despite the effects of Irma, the Covid Pandemic, and other formidable obstacles.

No matter what has caused the delay in serious consideration and passage of timeshare owner consumer protection legislation on the island, it is time for the island government to put all that behind and to move forward vigorously to protect the interests of timeshare owners and protect the tourism product that is so vital to the island's economy by passing real timeshare owner consumer protection that would totally prevent the kinds of debacles that have been whacking a number of timeshare owners around on SXM for the last several years.

Enough is enough.

A considerable number of timeshare owners have left the island permanently and timesharing has been hurt by the inattention beleaguered timeshare owners have received from government authorities. Timeshare owner consumer protection with real teeth that is enforced vigorously is long overdue on SXM and is badly needed now to help enable the economy to move forward and stop allowing people who don't care about consumer protection from ripping off timeshare consumers on the island. *Solving this problem now can prove to consumers that investing in timesharing and in full share Condo ownership are safe investments backed by government legal protections.* That can mean substantial new business for the island; real happiness among people who invest in the island; and enforcements to deal appropriately with people who take unfair advantage of consumers.

While the government does this, it ought also to get involved in protecting the interests of current timeshare owners at resorts with serious problems. Every one of the thousands of timeshare owners at the resorts mentioned the previous articles has a depressing story to tell about their experience while investing in timesharing in St. Maarten. The government can turn those stories around by dealing with these problems as well and making things happen to deliver positive outcomes to these fans of SXM.

That can still happen but it needs to happen now, when SXM's economy needs all the help it can get.

19. Simpson Bay Resort Continues To Work Around the Clock to Recover Its Telecommunications -- Here's What's Happening & What to Do

Here's the latest about what's happening at Simpson Bay Resort in the wake of the ransomware attack of a couple of weeks ago which we've written about here in *SXM Weekly News*.

The efforts of the Resort "still continue to be a work in progress, however we are making good progress," says GM Marcel Javois in a requested update to *SXM Weekly News*. He adds: "[The Resort's] Check in / Check out system is up and running, [and the] POS system at food and beverage outlets is operational allowing guests to charge to their units. Email addresses should be restored next week."

NOTE: If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us via our temporary alternate email at simpsonbayresort2021@gmail.com. If you need to reach us urgently about an upcoming visit or other time-sensitive matter, you can also call the resort at +1 721 544 2503 (be advised this is an international call). Please be aware that, given the situation, it may take us some time to respond; however, we will do our best to respond as quickly

as possible.

SXM Weekly News thanks Simpson Bay Resort for supplying this updated information.

20. Entries to our One-Week Orient Beach Club Vacation Giveaway Extended Briefly

SXM Weekly News/EverythingStMaarten/JMB Communications will be giving away a one-week Orient Beach Club vacation to a lucky winner later this month.

ENTRIES were to have concluded this past Saturday, but are now extended Until Monday, June 21, the day after Father's Day. We have scheduled the drawing to occur live on the air during Fresh Air in the Morning on Island92.com between 945 and 10 AM Eastern time on June 28.

Orient Beach Hotel is a perfect place to stay for your next summer vacation — even if it's in an additional vacation beyond what you already planned. July is the most perfect month on SXM, with great weather, just about every restaurant still open, plus low traffic and plenty of room on all the beaches — how's that for a change from the endless traffic jams on the Jersey shore, Cape Cod, or Lake George?

SXM in summer is a great vacation place: it's time you took a real summer vacation and get away from all that traffic, noise, and congestion that you find where you usually go.

Come visit us in SXM this summer and start yourself a great new tradition!

HOW TO ENTER THIS GIVEAWAY: [Go here.](#)

Although we'll shortly update the form so it accurately reflects our new Summer Sensation vacation giveaway, the form is LIVE now and you are free to enter. **IMPORTANT:** You **MUST** be a subscriber to *SXM Weekly News* (NOT a passalong reader) to win, but subscriptions are FREE. Subscribe now at sxmweeklynews.com.

21. Condo Sales Continue Through the Roof - Who to Contact

See the Realtors in our Sponsors list below; they are the most qualified to help you learn more about and acquire a condo on SXM that meets your specific needs. Also see the story immediately below about BrightPath Caribbean, a company that can help enormously with required paperwork. They know what they're doing.

22. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

A while ago, 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 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*.

23. Where to Find SXM Condo Rentals from JMB Members for 2021-22: EverythingSXM.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters are posting 2021 and now 2022 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 this Summer, Fall, and beyond.

24. 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.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

25. Updated NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 5/3/21)

Once Covid is gone and the fallout from it has cleared, we will resume 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 section.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

26. Been Thinking of SkyMed? Why NOW Is the Best Time To Pull The Trigger on SkyMed Medevac Protection: Under \$1.35/day for Ongoing SkyMed Protection!

Anything Can Happen Anywhere...

SKYMED Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Get it **BEFORE** You Need it for as little as \$1.35/day **OR LESS DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED SALE** (annual & multiyear plans) that are *guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or declining health*. **Without SkyMed, you'll need to pay the current price of an evacuation in cash, in advance -- and that could easily be \$35,000 to \$50,000 or more -- sometimes much more. Why risk that? See these important links:**

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

You'll find Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

Here are the details of this unprecedented sale:

- **LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE:**

All existing SkyMed memberships and new SkyMed membership purchases of one-year or longer are now price-guaranteed for life. The price of your membership will not increase if you buy during this 2021 sale or if you already are a SkyMed owner of any annual or longer membership: this *applies as long as your renewals are paid on time*.

FREE BONUS WEEKS (UP TO 21 WEEKS) FOR PURCHASES OF SKYMED'S MOST POPULAR MEMBERSHIPS:

Buy a new 5-year Ultimate SkyMed membership OR UPGRADE TO ONE and get an added 21 weeks of medevac protection at no added cost. More on SkyMed memberships is on our site, www.skymed.com/jmb or call us at 508-747-8281 for answers to any questions. Guaranteed renewable *as long as your renewals are paid on time.* Does not apply to monthly-payment 5-year Ultimates.

- Buy a new 3-year Ultimate SkyMed membership OR UPGRADE TO ONE and get an added 12 weeks of medevac protection at no added cost. More on SkyMed memberships is on our site, www.skymed.com/jmb or call us at 508-747-8281 for answers to any questions. Guaranteed renewable *as long as your renewals are paid on time.*
- Buy a new annual (one-year guaranteed renewable *as long as your renewals are paid on time*) SkyMed membership and get an added 21 free days of medevac protection at no added cost.

REWARDS FOR REFERRALS FROM SKYMED MEMBERS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS:

- 21 Free Weeks added to your SkyMed membership when you refer someone who buys a 5-year Ultimate.
- 12 Free Weeks added to your SkyMed membership when you refer someone who buys a 3-year Ultimate.
- 21 Free Days added to your SkyMed membership when you refer someone who buys an annual SkyMed membership.

HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us during normal business hours EDT at 508-747-8281 for answers to questions or to sign up. When you call us directly, we get credit for the sale. You can also email us directly through SkyMed at jeff.berger@skymed.com.

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>. But please call me directly with questions or to sign up.

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp.

--Jeff Berger

27. Help Keep SXM Weekly News Coming:

+++++

MEMBERSHIP SALE NOW UNDERWAY

BUT IT MUST END SOON!

NOW: Get A Full Year or TWO of FREE Membership

in Our

JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program

+++++

**as our thanks when you
HELP US CONTINUE TO PUBLISH**

SXM WEEKLY NEWS

**BY JOINING / RENEWING / REINSTATING
ANY MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR
"JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS"
ISLAND DISCOUNT PROGRAM:**

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 355,000 worldwide readers every week as we have since 1992...

You'll certainly return SOON. so please sign up for, renew, or reinstate today.

HOW IT WORKS: Buy any new multiyear JMB Website Supporters membership, or renew/reinstate any JMB membership for multiple years, and while this promotion continues we will give you a full additional year FREE. Memberships to which this applies are noted as (+1) below. But the maximum number of offered years (renewal/reinstatement/new membership) and you get **TWO FREE ADDITIONAL YEARS (+2)**

Military / First Responder memberships available too at huge discounts. Details below.

a) New Memberships Get Great Benefits:

Here are our low new membership prices:

- 1 year \$59
- 3 years \$109 (+1)
- 5 years \$139 (+2)

Sign up by going to everythingxsm.com and clicking the page curl, or phone us.

b) Here are all the multiyear renewal / reinstatement rates for all current or former members:

- The **one-year** renewal or reinstatement is \$49.
- **Three-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$89 (+1)
- **Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149; please ACT NOW. (+2)**

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.

c) Military and First-Responder memberships offer you four years for just \$67.96 (at \$16.99/year paid at inception). That is the best deal we have ever offered anyone for any memberships, on a yearly standard-price basis. DD214 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required. **Please ACT NOW. ALL MILITARY MEMBERSHIPS, NEW OR RENEWAL/REINSTATED, ARE (+2) BUT THIS SALE ENDS VERY SOON SO ACT TODAY!**

We hope you are having a pleasant Spring, **but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today.**

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 temporarily reduced staff. We hope to be fully caught up shortly

THANK YOU!

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

.....Here's More Island News.....

28. (Repeating...) Dutch Side to Drop Covid Testing Requirements for Fully Vaccinated Visitors

In the most stunning, sudden announcement it has made this year, the Dutch side government has declared that that it

will soon drop Covid testing requirements for fully vaccinated visitors. It did not say exactly when this will happen or how it will be implemented, or what if any impact there will be on children.. As soon as we have more details, they will be announced at once by email to all members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program and will be posted in our everything SXM Facebook group. Government updates of this emerging program will also be published in the next regular issue of *SXM Weekly News*. Undoubtedly, the government is working on methods to implement these steps that ensure that only visitors who can prove credibly that they are fully vaccinated will be accepted.

For a late breaking further developments, please join and visit regularly our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). You must answer vetting questions to join but when doing so, please specify that you are a subscriber to *SXM Weekly News*.

29. Yet Another French Side Motorbike Fatality

There has been yet another fatal motorbike accident on the French side of the island. Although most operators of motorcycles and motorbikes on the island are law-abiding citizens trying to get around the island economically, others aren't, and some take chances on island highways.

We don't know yet what the details were concerning the 32-year-old man who was operating a motorbike near the Orient Bay Hill on the RN7 main road in the Orient area when he hit the rear view mirror of a small truck going in the opposite direction and fatally lost control of his bike. *The Daily Herald* published [this story](#) on Saturday morning. Too many young people are losing their lives on the island as a result of motorbike accidents. In this case, the operator of the motorbike was not wearing a helmet. That kind of simple precaution — as well as careful, defensive driving — can go a long way to improve the safety of motorbike operators and others on SXM's island roads.

30. French Side Curfew Status Update

Roughly a week ago, the French side of the island introduced an 8 PM curfew for buyers, restaurants, and unnecessary driving which possibly ends this Wednesday. It was an anti-Covid move intended to keep the numbers of Covid patients in the French side hospital at a workable level.

The question now is whether the curfew will be extended or discontinued. We aren't going to guess what will be decided — that's a decision to be made by the French side government. Once we hear their decision, we will post it immediately in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Anyone who wishes to drive after 8 PM on the French side must first obtain written permission from the French side government — otherwise, you must stay home.

Although it is widely hoped that the curfew will be discontinued soon, we have no advance information about what the government will decide. Like business owners and vacationers, we certainly hope that Covid numbers decline enough to enable the government to allow bars and restaurants to be open their full normal hours — with French side bar and restaurant customers who are not eating or drinking still wearing their masks since the pandemic is not yet over on the island.

31. GEBE's Never-Ending Reliability Issues

GEBE, the Dutch side's electric company, recently had the quality of its service level compared to that of Zimbabwe — not a positive distinction. It has a habit of sometimes publishing articles telling people in advance when their district's electricity will be turned off for "routine maintenance," whatever that is.

Interestingly, power periodically goes out in other areas on an annoyingly routine basis.

Although the government is usually highly critical of the frequency of the outages, the fact is that the government owns the electricity company — and when it criticizes the electricity company, it is in fact criticizing itself.

Nothing ever seems to change. Hard-working employees continue to do everything possible to maintain the Dutch side electricity grid as well as they can, but top management expertise at developing and maintaining reliability doesn't seem to exist. Consequently, GEBE has never-ending reliability issues.

If you're staying at hotel or timesharing resort on the island, you can pretty much rest assured that your resort has operational standby generators, enabling it to continue operating and serving customers even in the face of Dutch side-wide or district-wide power outages.

When will the Dutch side finally give dependable power generation the priority attention it needs? Your guess is as good as ours.

Hopefully, they'll get it done soon.

32. Water Issues at Orient Beach

If you entered the Orient beach area through the old dirt road by Club Orient at the southern end of the beach last March, you would've seen a number of water pipes stacked at the side of the road near its beginning. They were being installed over the last few weeks and as a result, there have been water outages over a large part of the Orient Bay area off and on through this period. The work should be finished soon which should mean the end of the annoyance to residents and visitors.

33. Attention Celebrity Millennium Passengers: Don't Fly to SXM on a Saturday

The Celebrity Millennium cruise ship, which is now home porting in SXM, sailed into port in Philipsburg within the last couple of days. Many passengers for it were flying in on Saturday.

We strongly recommend that, if possible, you avoid flying into Princess Juliana SXM Airport on any Saturday. If flights are available to you, we strongly recommend you come a few days early — perhaps Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. Not only will that give you a great but too-brief feel for the island, but it will also enable you to avoid Saturday, the busiest day of the week at the airport.

A plurality of SXM overnight visitors stays at the island's timeshare resorts. The weeks they own or rent usually begin and end on Saturdays. That's why the vast preponderance of flights into SXM happen on Saturday afternoon, usually early in the afternoon — many arriving within minutes of each other. That brings a glut of people into customs and immigration and causes delays. That's why many seasoned travelers coming to SXM plan their arrivals and departures on days other than Saturdays — or on morning flights if such flights are available.

After you land, you must go through customs and immigration as well as baggage claim and all of that can take up a considerable amount of time depending upon where in the pecking order your plane landed. Coming in a day or two earlier can make your life far easier and your trip far more relaxing.

34. Food for Thought? St. Kitts, Nevis To Admit Only Fully Vaccinated Visitors

As we mentioned here before, we do know that the Dutch side of SXM plans to do away sometime soon with the requirement for testing for people who have been fully vaccinated; please see the above story for more on that. St. Kitts and Nevis, which aren't all that far away from SXM, are planning now to admit only people who are fully vaccinated to their islands as visitors, eliminating any need for Covid testing. (Perhaps SXM will do the same?)

Here is [the story](#) about St. Kitts and Nevis.

35. Star Wars Fans: Visit Nick Maley's The Yoda Guy Museum in Philipsburg

Nick Maley is a major celebrity on SXM — particularly to Star Wars fans. He is the guy who created the original design for Yoda, a key character in most Star Wars episodes. In fact, he has created and operated for several years a museum near the eastern end of Front Street in P-Burg called "The Yoda Guy" though in fact it carries quite a lot of memorabilia of the entire Star Wars genre.

If you haven't visited it yet, we urge you to do so now. In the aftermath of hurricane Irma and Covid, it has been difficult for Nick to keep his Yoda guy Museum open but he has done so and he needs/deserves the support of all of us. But even more important, the entire museum is more than fascinating because of all the information it contains about Star Wars and, of course, Yoda.

Heads up: Nick is generally there, and is happy to answer questions and help show you around. It's quite a treat to meet him and talk about Yoda and much more....

36. Kite Sailing in SXM

If you like big kites and know how to swim, we suggest you park yourself any late morning — especially on windy days — along the middle of Orient beach and take a close look at all the kite surfers.

Not familiar with kite surfing? Kite surfers attach a large kite to a harness around their upper torso, then get on what looks like a small surfboard and let the wind take over.

Experienced kite surfers can take a journey throughout Orient Bay of several miles over a period of 15 minutes or more in the water. Truly seasoned kite surfers can change direction by jumping high into the air. The most agile kite surfers we've seen — women and men alike — even do somersaults while in the air of 10 or 15 feet from the surface of the water. It looks extremely exhilarating and there is no doubt that they get a major rush from it.

Vendors along the beach offer lessons to newbies, including how to handle the kite and influence its direction and how to manage the board when you're on the water.

For those who prefer to stay on shore, it's a great opportunity to take your telephoto lens and shoot some of the acrobatics.

On busy weekends, you're likely to see upwards of a dozen and 1/2 kite surfers in the water simultaneously. On calm days, you're likely to see very few since they need wind to propel their kites. As long as there is wind, there will be kite surfers. — even if showers are expected.

Give it a shot and let us know what you think. By all means feel free to post your pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

37. Scuba Diving in SXM

I did a total of 3 scuba dives in St. Martin with my 13 year old son in June 2019. The water was clear and warm, as one would expect for St. Martin in June. The dive operators were happy to accommodate Most of the dive sites on the island are on the south side (Dutch) since this it is the leeward side and therefore the waves are smaller.

We did 2 dives with AquaMania/Dive adventures (did dive #100 with them, they were supportive of my doing dive#100 the "right" way) AquaMania is located in Simpson Bay Beach Resort, with easy access to the boat a great staff. They were very helpful to the entire process including loading gear, setting up gear, putting it on before the dives and taking it off after the dives. They helped wash the gear after the dive.

Dives were to the sites "Proselyte" and "Jab Jab". Proselyte was a site with many rocks formations that were filled with life. We saw many sharks and many other creatures covering the rocks. Jab Jab has a sandy bottom with a wreck and a few other structures and grass that all hold life and interesting things to see.

We also did 1 dive with Ocean Explorers. We were originally planning to do 2 dives with Ocean Explorers, their shark dive, but the water was too rough for us, and ocean explorers refunded the cost of the second dive. Ocean explorers is located on Kim Sha beach (Jeff correct the name place) near Roxxy beach bar. They helped load, unload, setup our gear, and broke down the gear, and cleaned it for us. There was no extra storage space on the boat, so spare equipment and tools could not come along for the ride.

Dive site was "Turtle reef" and it very much lived up to its name. We saw at least 5 turtles one of which was very friendly and would swim right up to you to say hi. This was also a mostly sandy bottom with some rocks and lots of grass and many places for critters to hide.

by Stacy Schnee

A single parent of two teenagers, Stacey grew up near NYC and currently lives in central Massachusetts. She's a software engineer working on industrial barcode readers. Her hobbies include ultimate frisbee, gardening, scuba diving, and making maple syrup. She has been to sxm twice and was the five millionth visitor to everythingsxm.com a few years ago. Her syrup sales can help her visit SXM again so look: "I sell my homemade 100% pure maple syrup for \$12/pint or \$23/quart. Golden, Amber, and Dark syrup is currently available. I will ship nearly anywhere (shipping cost varies by location and quantity)."

38. Where / When SkyMed Covers You

SkyMed short-term and guaranteed renewable annual memberships "TAKE YOU HOME®" when you become seriously or critically injured throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection through Global Emergency Transport Services (GETS) is a low-cost option on annual memberships and is included in multiyear Ultimate memberships.

SkyMed's Caribbean coverage defaults to protect you through high-season, 11/1-4/30 yearly. If you visit at other times of year, please call Member Services a 1-800-475-9633 and let them know. Important: if you are on SXM or anyplace outside the USA or Canada in aggregate for 6 months or more per year, you'll need xPat protection. Call Jeff Berger directly and he can help you upgrade your membership to full xPat coverage.

39. Think About Where You're Going & About This:

TRAVELING *ANYWHERE* THIS SUMMER? SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or all the nations in the Caribbean. (Global protection is also available.)

So if you're traveling to SXM -- or anywhere else -- in the next few months, get SKYMED Medical evacuation membership FIRST: It could easily save you \$35,000 -- the approx. cash cost of an emergency medical evacuation YOU MUST PAY IN CASH IN ADVANCE should you become seriously or critically ill or injured on SXM -- or anywhere else -- and need to get home.

The SkyMed Difference: SkyMed members pay only the small cost of membership, currently under \$1.35/day on an annual basis -- but you must get SkyMed BEFORE you need it, like fire insurance. CALL JEFF FOR INFO OR TO SIGN UP: 508-747-8281 (8am-8pm EDT). Or email him at jeff.berger@skymed.com.

40. Restaurant of the Week: Isola Ristorante Italiano

Marco Ferrante worked on SXM in various capacities at other Italian restaurants after being classically trained back home in Italy. Today, he is Top Gun at **Isola** (Italian for Island), perhaps because the restaurant is on a plot of privately owned land next to Hollywood Casino in the middle of Simpson Bay Resort, Dutch side.

The restaurant has a full bar, often offers entertainment, and has three types of seating -- open-air, air conditioned, and their Veranda from which you can see Caribbean sunsets. Food is king here and you'll find lots of traditional Italian dishes creatively orchestrated in their just-totally redesigned kitchen, built to Marco's specifications. Excellent food, attentive servers, huge menu -- plenty of choices for even the most finicky eaters. Don't see what you'd like? If they have the ingredients and the crowd isn't overly huge, no problem.

Reservations are essential. Even though this popular restaurant has lots of seats, they do fill up quickly especially when high rollers are in town. Great food - highly recommended.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 6/7/21). 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

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 5/31/21). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when

they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too. \$10 pasta specials at lunch - lots of great food in every meal.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 5/24/21 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have -- here in SXM or anywhere else. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. Formerly on the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, they are now at the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they serve both lunch and dinner six days a week. Traditional and highly creative Continental dinners, with Tapas and other selections at lunch. Do not miss it. Reservations essential. They do not use an answering machine, so call when they are open and let it ring.

Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (featured 5/16/21), **Simpson Bay** A 15-second walk to the side of the building from Reveil Marin (R/M is a breakfast/lunch restaurant). Outstanding dinners in Jai's, a fun new contemporary Indian fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, top-notch delicious selections spanning a wide spectrum of flavors, aromas, and textures. You gotta try this place! Highly recommended.

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 5/10/21) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 4/26/21). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 4/17/21) Chef-co-owner Ciro Russo & Lara Russo haven't missed a beat here as Spiga has finally reopened. Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed. **Now reopened.**

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 3/8/21). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Highly recommended.

Pure Ocean Restaurant at Divi Little Bay Resort, Dutch side (featured 3/1/21) Fine new beachside restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and fine dining dinners. Excellent choices for everyone, innovative menu, beautiful presentation, and downright delicious. Great Caribbean ambiance on their open-air beachside deck. Attentive service and responsive staff.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/22/21) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids & their parents.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (2/22/21) now combined with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location next door, opposite IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay. See that entry, above.

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 2/8/21) is the newest creation of Anish Chugani, who also operates Avantika and Movida in the same area of Simpson Bay. It's new, beautiful, and has high-quality written all over it. We just went and loved it. See <https://www.astrasxm.com/>

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/1/21) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/25/21) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 1/18/21) Excellent pizza, and sizable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach. **Now also open in Oyster Pond.**

Sale & Pepe (featured 1/11/21) 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/>

Emilio's: 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/>

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

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

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?

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.

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

Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar <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.

41. Join Our New Conversational Everything SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative

For years, you have been able to obtain a great deal of SXM information and photos/videos in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Unfortunately, not everyone is a fan of Facebook, so we have started a new Everything SXM group

on a platform that has become a strong competitor Facebook — it is called MeWe.

We urge all fans of *SXM Weekly News* to become members of MeWe and join our group there; [here is the link](#).

42. Going Home? Check Your State's Return Policies

It's essential for visitors returning home to the US to know their home state's policies and procedures for passengers returning from overseas flights well before they head to the airport.

We suggest at least a couple of weeks before your return date that you visit your state's main web portal to see exactly what its requirements are regarding Covid. Some states may require a negative test be taken X number of hours before your return flight; others may require some degree of quarantine, and others may require nothing.

The US REQUIRES Covid tests for everyone returning there from SXM. Details are in our Guide to Entry Requirements, published early in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*. Ask about testing locations on SXM that you can use — to do that, go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Please do not ask questions there about your state's requirements — our group is SXM centric and will not accept such posts. Your state's web portal is certainly the best source of current, accurate information about requirements related to returning international passengers.

43. 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.

44. 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 canceled 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

45. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 28,000 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.

46. 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 just been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

Get The Current Low Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership

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](#)

47. 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.

48. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 5/24/21)

AMUSEMENTS

[Island Pedals Beer Cycle](#) (Philipsburg)

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BOAT TOURS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana 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](#)

Royal Jewelers (new)

Kay's Fine Jewelry (new)

Joe's Jewelry International (new)

Ballerina Jewelers (new)

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[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

Sunshine Properties

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

RESTAURANTS & BARS

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

ISOLA

Frenchy Ludo'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

LA ROSA

NONNA ROSA

LAZY LIZARD

RANCHO (new)

SUNSET CAFE (new)

AVANTIKA (new)

MOVIDA (new)

ASTRA (new)

JAI'S CONTEMPORARY INDIAN RESTAURANT (new)

JAX Steakhouse (Maho) (NEW)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

VILLA RENTALS / 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 **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Vijoux:

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

Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 5/24/21

**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.

49. 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 Web 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". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

Tourism is returning in a big way 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 in the months ahead. 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?

2020 & 21 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 weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our 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, 2021. 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 3/15/21)

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 susank@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)

6/7/21 #V4-1301 6/6 6:00 am EDT | [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2021. World rights reserved.

###