From JMB / SXM Weekly News 6/28/21: BULLETIN: Entry Requirements Updated Effective 7/1; Canada Eases Restrictions on Fully Vaccinated Fliers; Towers at Mullet Bay Employees Vent Frustrations; Big, Positive Changes to French Side Curfew;

Toppers Relocates to Carousel & Reopens; Busy Summer Already Starting; About The Winner of Our SXM Vacation Giveaway

[Issue #1303 -- 46 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1303 --- Monday, June 28, 2021 News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add <u>jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com</u> 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.

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 <u>St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News</u> because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

<u>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...</u>

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



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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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml
On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

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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:

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- -- To Avoid Airport Congestion, Avoid Saturday Afternoon Arrivals / Departures
- -- Airlines Canceling Some Flights for Multiple Reasons
- -- Canada Eases Restrictions on Fully Vaccinated Fliers
- -- Reminder: About Our New Daily Tropical Outlooks
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- -- All-New Toppers Restaurant Opens at The Carousel
- -- As Predicted, SXM Will be BUSY This Summer
- -- Bring SXM Home With Our Exclusive SXM Euro Ovals
- -- Restaurant of the Week: Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (Not What You Expect)
- -- Think About Where You're Going And About This
- -- Restaurant of the Week: Jai's
- -- Who Won Our Orient Beach Hotel Vacation Giveaway? The Answer is Here
- -- Huge SkyMed Medevac Membership Sale ENDS SOON
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- -- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

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In This Issue: 46 News Stories

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 1/8/2022 1/15/2022 Week 2 Royal Islander Club La Plage Magnificently maintained complex featuring open

air lobby, marble floors and tropical landscaping. Fifth floor on Maho(quiet)side with beautiful sea and pool views with beautiful beach. One bedroom/king size bed, sleeper sofa. Sleeps 4. Convenient to everything...restaurants, shopping, casino, Sunset Bar and more. Timeshare tax of approx \$50 is renters responsibility. Week 1 in same unit is also available. \$1450 per week Vi 631-587-3001 vi06@optonline.net.

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/26/2022 3/5/2022 9 Sapphire Beach Club Deluxe studio, sleeps 4, 5th floor, 3rd building, panoramic ocean view, no obstructions, Heineken week, property has pool, bar, restaurant, spa and underground parking purchaser responsible for transfer fees. \$5,000 Debbie 807-275-9809 debbiemmctaggart@gmail.com

See them all at http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent sale/index.shtml

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our All-New "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group

https://mewe.com/join/jeffbergerseverythingsxmmewegroup

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

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

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

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

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Up to 21 Free Weeks added with new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases! Details are in this story.

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How To Get a <u>GROWING LIST of 300+</u> 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:

1. LEAD STORY: Effective July 1, PCR Testing Window is 72 Hours vs. 120 Currently

With almost 180 million people now vaccinated in the United States, the demand for Covid testing has shrunk relative to the high number of Covid testing sites now available. In English, that means **getting tested quickly for travel has become a whole lot easier practically everywhere**. In more places, new rapid PCR testing is available, enabling travelers to be tested, get results within an hour or so, then submit them electronically to EHAS for approval.

The Dutch side of SXM is changing the maximum number of hours it allows to elapse between when you are PCR tested for Covid and when the final leg of your trip to SXM takes off from a US airport. That number, effective this Thursday, July 1, changes to 72 hours from 120 hours currently, as we have reported here in SXM Weekly News as

well as in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group**.

You'll find all the details of this significant but definitely not daunting change in entry requirements in our Guide to Entry Requirements in the Files area of our everything SXM Facebook group, where you will find answers to all your questions about any aspect of entering SXM as well as US requirements before you return home. FILES are here: www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm/files. Use the SEARCH window for "Entry".

2. To Avoid Airport Congestion, Avoid Saturday Afternoon Arrivals / Departures

There is no way to avoid airport congestion at SXM Airport on Saturday afternoons — the busiest time of the week — unless you reschedule your arrival day/time and your departure day/time to move them away from Saturday afternoon. More flights arrive and depart then than at any other single point during the week.

SXM has done an excellent job of upping its game for processing both arriving and departing passengers at the airport. But when up to a dozen and 1/2 flights arrive at the airport over a two or three hour period, there is congestion — and the only way to avoid it is to arrive earlier in the week and depart outside the weekend. Congestion was the case before hurricane Irma hit and temporarily transformed the airport into something less than an ideal facility — and there will certainly be some degree of congestion remaining even after the airport fully reopens in less than two years.

There will also be more flights coming into the airport in the months ahead -- involving more airlines. We know specifically that Southwest continues to be keenly interested in coming to SXM, possibly from both BWI Airport and Fort Lauderdale airport over time. And Southwest is not the only new carrier that's seriously interested in starting flights to SXM in the near term. We'll have more on who's coming as soon as formal announcements are made. SW is the biggie; the only question is exactly when.

3. Airlines Canceling Some Flights for Multiple Reasons

As we've explained in recent weeks, US airlines — perhaps American more than any other — have been canceling numerous flights from their schedules as they try to keep up with increased demand for travel as the recovery from the Covid 19 global Pandemic has quickly increased the demand for flights. Airlines had given early retirement to thousands of pilots and the shortage of pilots and other crewmembers has been the primary reason airlines can't keep up with demand.

Perhaps the worst airline in this regard has been American; more on them in a minute.

<u>Weather is also playing havoc with airline schedules</u>. Within the last few days, for example, a vigorous weather front went through parts of the Midwest causing the cancellation of hundreds of flights in Chicago alone. It's that time of year -- and this can happen in practically any US airport.

The combination of severe weather and the shortage of flight crews mean that flights are not going to be 100% reliable for several months. So, as always, we suggest that all passengers frequently check the status of their flights and if you find that your flight or flights have been rescheduled or canceled, make arrangements with your carrier to reschedule as quickly as you can: stay on top of this for the best options.

4. Canada Eases Restrictions on Fully Vaccinated Fliers

Meanwhile, in Canada, cabin fever has become a national crisis thanks to heavy restrictions instituted in that country to combat the Covid 19 Pandemic there.

Here is a <u>concise explanation</u> of what Canada is doing to help its citizens return from travel and not have to endure the Canadian equivalent of the Spanish Inquisition after coming home.

Welcome back to SXM, Canadians — you look like you need a vacation -- soon!

5. Waiting for your "Approval" From EHAS? Important News:

Something we found out over the last several weeks will be of particular interest to people waiting for their preapproval from EHAS.

Although EHAS on its site tells passengers to allow up to 12 hours to receive a response to their application for preapproval, in the majority of cases it takes not much more than four hours to get a response from EHAS (or a bit longer if you apply at night).

It's important for you to know that email sent by EHAS comes from this email address:

no-reply@emails.stmaartenehas.com. If you've waited more than four hours for a response and have yet to receive it, search both your inbox and your SPAM/junk mailbox for that email address.

In most cases what were thought to be nonresponses from EHAS were in fact responses that had not yet been located by recipients. Specifically: EHAS sent them their preapproval but their system put them into either their spam or trash mailbox, not their inbox.

Being aware that this happens can save you a lot of time if you think your haven't received your response from EHAS: just do a search in your mail program for the sender address **no-reply@emails.stmaartenehas.com**. You are highly likely to find it there.

6. Stay Aware of Tropical Activity Near SXM: See Our Weather Center / Hurricane Center

If SXM is to be affected by any significant tropical systems, it doesn't usually happen until the so-called Cape Verde season gets going in September.

July has been called by many the most beautiful month of the year on the island, with cloudless skies through July and much of August. There are also usually lower temperatures in SXM — sometimes significantly lower — with much less humidity than sweltering major cities in the US.

Although it may seem strange, you can come to SXM in the tropics during Summer to cool off — and you will actually accomplish that mission.

If you live anywhere near the US Atlantic or Gulf Coast, you will want to stay aware of what's happening in the tropics related to tropical systems. You can find all that information in our weather center/hurricane center in our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com. Our hurricane center's webpages include the latest watches and warnings for up to six storms simultaneously – so you can see the latest forecast information for all active storms in real time, as it is issued by the National Hurricane Center.

Our site also includes a number of satellite images, radar loops, and other graphics to give you a comprehensive inside look into exactly what's happening in the tropics. It is updated in real time around-the-clock, so keep a close eye on it.

Every day, we post the National Hurricane Center Tropical Outlook in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group** as well as in our hurricane center at everythingsxm.com. We will continue to do that to hopefully ensure that everyone has the opportunity to see the latest information about all storms that may impact them from now through November 30 or beyond, when hurricane activity actually ends.

7. FAA Throwing The Book at Unruly Passengers

Thankfully there have not been any reportable incidences of seriously unruly passengers aboard flights to or from SXM, but this year in the US there have been literally thousands of such incidents. The FAA has given wide publicity to the fact that it is almost literally throwing the book at all unruly passengers, delivering severe fines to them and handing down other serious penalties. Hopefully people who might consider callous action on board planes will give it a second thought -- unless they want to wind up in jail for a while and lose a big chunk of their life savings.

8. 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.

9. 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 indepth 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 **Guide to Entry Requirements** will appear.

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:

10. Hurricane Season Cooking

The 2021 hurricane season formally began June 1 and ends November 30. Tropical systems began brewing before the season had started, and the fourth named storm of the year, Danny, today affected South Carolina and Georgia.

Ocean waters east of SXM are warm, and a small tropical system is expected to affect some of the Leeward Islands by Wednesday of this week. We'll be publishing updates in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group**.

SXM is usually not impacted in a significant way by tropical systems until the latter part of August. In fact, the month of July is known to be one of the most beautiful of the year, if not the best of the year, say people who live on the island. So no worries if you plan a trip here during the next six or seven weeks; the weather is certain to be far less sweltering than you will encounter in the US and, we expect, purely peaceful.

Please also see the above, more extensive article on monitoring tropical activity.

11. Reminder: About Our New Daily Tropical Outlooks

Effective a couple of weeks ago, we started posting daily Tropical Outlooks in our <u>Jeff Berger's Everything SXM</u>

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, as we've noted in this issue. It's hurricane season.

12. Good News About Delayed Hurricane Preps: Lumber Prices are Crashing

Late last winter, and even several weeks ago, we posted warnings about shortages of materials used in preparing properties to withstand assaults by hurricanes. Shortages were widespread and prices were astronomical.

Now, however, lumber producers have caught up; deliveries have led to replenished supplies; demand has fallen as some who had planned projects deferred them because of the high cost of building materials; and <u>now the prices</u> <u>charged for lumber are crashing</u>, great news for anyone who procrastinated on getting underway with various projects.

Procrastinators, unite and start shopping — tomorrow!

13. 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 <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u>, 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.

14. 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

15. 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 6/16/2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE GUIDE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

16. 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. Latest revision occurs 6/16/21.

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

17. 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.

18. 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

19. Towers at Mullet Bay Employees Vent Frustrations Big-Time

Blessed with a number of long-time employees, the Towers at Mullet Bay resort received some heavy damage during hurricane Irma in 2017. Long story short, as an enterprise it was related to other enterprises which were allegedly having significant financial woes in the wake of the hurricane, and as a result its assets were essentially frozen rendering it unable to do business.

Ultimately, construction materials brought in to enable reconstruction/restoration sat inside the building next to broken windows in some areas, occasionally photographed by photojournalists such as the editor of *SXM Weekly News* who published the information a couple of years ago in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group**.

Some people were allowed to have month-to-month apartments in the building which meant that there were some rooms that were habitable and could have been used by timeshare owners had that been allowed — which it wasn't. Timeshare owners have been justifiably upset because nearly 4 years have passed and their timeshare investments have been unusable.

Then, of course, Covid hit.

As we wrote here recently, although some members of government have spoken out in favor of timeshare owner consumer protection legislation it's a fact that the parliament on the Dutch side continues to sit on a proposal — as it has for the last few years. It's not at all certain that this type of situation would have been covered by the proposed legislation.

Meanwhile, the building sits there not contributing to the SXM economy. If timeshare owners are upset/angry about this, imagine how Towers at mullet Bay employees feel — they are in an even worse situation and no one appears to be helping them, either. More on their plight is here; this story will give you a better idea of the current state of mind of Towers at Mullet Bay employees.

20. Check Out Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rental Ads Direct from Timeshare Owners

Ever since we established our JMB Website Supporters island discount program in 2002, it has offered hundreds of discounts and other benefits to its members. One of the first benefits provided to our members was the ability to advertise timeshare weeks they own for rent or for sale in our main website, www.everythingsxm.com.

That page currently offers hundreds of ads from timeshare owner, JMB Website Supporters members on SXM, as well as many more timeshare weeks for sale at prices far less than those charged directly by timeshare resorts.

Unlike other publications that carry ads for timeshare condos for rent or for sale, we accept ads exclusively from our JMB Website Supporters members — a big deal, security perspective. The ads were just updated with dozens of new Weeks added yesterday, Sunday, June 27. The weeks are offered directly by timeshare owners and not by any third parties, which means you pay no third-party commissions or any other fees. We do not charge our JMB Website Supporters members any separate fee for ad placement which enables you in the timeshare owner to deal directly with each other without having to deal with third-party fees.

Go here to see our current selection of SXM timeshare weeks for rent and for sale. The list is very frequently updated, especially at this time of year when so many people are selecting accommodations for their next SXM vacation..

21. Update on Simpson Bay Resort

Simpson Bay Resort is one of many companies in this hemisphere to recently suffer a ransomware attack, and we've been reporting here about their progress is normalizing their communications infrastructure in its wake.

Recovery continues to be a work in progress, however "we are making good progress," reports resort General Manager Marcel Javois. "Check in / Check out system up and running. POS system at F&B [food and beverage] outlets

operational allowing guests to charge to their units. Email addresses should be restored..."

We will continue to report on this going forward.

22. Drawing Held for our Orient Beach Club Vacation Giveaway

Late this past winter, we announced a summer giveaway: an eight day, seven night vacation at the beautiful new Orient Beach Hotel on Orient beach on the French side. In the weeks since, many thousands of you have entered the giveaway.

This morning at 9:45 a.m. Eastern time, Joe DeG from Arizona and his wife -- touring the country by motorcycle -- answered when their cell phone rang in cold, rainy Wisconsin. They pulled over under an overpass so they could talk to us... Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin from Island 92 and our own Jeff Berger called him live on the air to tell him his name was drawn at random from over 100,000 entries in this Everything SXM Giveaway.

Our Congrats to the family!

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 (and current crazy overcharging) 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!

23. 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.

24. 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*.

25. 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.

26. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there. For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing pallet of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at everythingsxm.com.

The ability to post timeshare rentals on our site is limited to JMB Website Supporters members only, and is not available to any others at any price.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

27. HIGHLY Updated NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 6/14/21)

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

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

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.

<u>FREE BONUS WEEKS</u> (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 ieff.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

29. 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

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. <u>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</u>

readers every week as we have since 1992...

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

<u>HOW IT WORKS</u>: 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 everythingsxm.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: <u>Six-year</u> renewal/reinstatements, \$149; please ACT NOW. (+2)

You can do both renewals and reinstatements <u>right here</u>, in our membership reinstatement center (prices are identical to renewals). For new memberships, click the page curl on our main site, everythingsxm.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. <u>You can reinstate an old membership regardless of how many years ago it expired, too</u>, 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.

<u>Don't want to use PayPal to sign up or renew</u> (even though you need not be a PayPal member)? Just call our office any day from 8am to 8pm EDT at <u>508-830-3456</u> 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



30. Big, Positive Changes to the French Side Curfew

The French side curfew that ran for a few weeks and required everyone to be off the streets of the French side by 8 PM has now undergone vast positive changes. For tourists, the bottom line is that you will now be able to go French side restaurants at night and enjoy dinner pretty much as always.

Here is the text, translated, of the French side announcement. This has now been in effect for several days and is working well.

FRENCH SIDE CURFEW CHANGES COMING INTO EFFECT; OFFICIAL INFORMATION:

Public establishments will now have to close their doors at 11 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. The travel, except for compelling reasons, will be prohibited from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. This is the decision taken by the Prefect of Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy Serge Gouteyron after the downward trend in the number of covid cases that have confirmed at the start of the week.

A measure in force until June 28 at 5 a.m. and which aligns with the Dutch side where establishments currently close at 11 p.m. "We had a very difficult month with 11 deaths, but the curfew was well respected and the situation is improving," said Serge Gouteyron.

Since Monday, 30 new cases have been identified. Related to the same number of tests that last week, this represents a decrease. No cases have been reported in the schools for a week. The rate of positivity is 2.8%, a figure that has fallen sharply since three weeks (4.3% last week).

In addition, 5 people are currently hospitalized at the center hospital, compared to 10 on average over the last weeks. Since the start of the week, no deaths is to be deplored [SIC - Ed.] and no medical evacuation to the Guadeloupe has not been made [SIC - Ed.]. -- From French side Government Sources

31. All-New Toppers Restaurant Opens at The Carousel

We'll be supplying details here soon and photos have already started appearing in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group**, but we wanted you to know that the all-new Toppers restaurant at the carousel in Simpson Bay is now open. It was only a few days ago that the original Toppers near Kimsha beach farther north in Simpson Bay had closed forever.

With plenty of parking either in front of the building or nearby, Toppers is new from the ground up and beautiful in every respect.

Now, in one place, you'll find the famous Toppers restaurant; the Gelateria that had made the Carousel famous; the Toppers Rhum Distillery; a souvenir store; Toppers unique rhum cakes; and a big reason to be here, the Toppers Rhum distillery itself, where you can buy dozens of rhums created right here in SXM.

Karaoke is available as always as is entertainment, now coupled with a beautiful view of Simpson Bay lagoon and that fabulous Toppers menu.

Much more information will be coming here soon, but stop in on your next visit to the island and start enjoying the allnew Toppers Restaurant soon.

32. As Predicted, SXM Will be BUSY This Summer

Optimistic that the end of the global Covid 19 Pandemic may actually be in sight, many thousands of tourists have gone to the island during May and June giving it a much needed financial shot in the arm while even larger numbers of tourists appear poised to visit during the heart of the summer.

Although this summer looks like it will be busy, compared to US vacation spots SXM will have light traffic, plenty of help in restaurants, traditional pricing for car rentals, low summer rates at hotels and villas, and the traditionally excellent service you have come to expect from the excellent restaurateurs you'll find across SXM.

Why waste time in US traffic jams when you get can enjoy better weather, wide-open beaches, superb restaurant and beach bar food, and unrivaled service right now in SXM?

Visit SXM this summer. If you have any questions about anything regarding a summer vacation in SXM, don't hesitate to ask them in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group**. Now is the time to make it happen

33. Bring SXM Home With Our Exclusive SXM Euro Ovals

For about 20 years, we've produced souvenir vinyl "SXM" euro oval bumper stickers which can be used on flat-surface hard sided luggage, the rear window of your car, occasionally over your husband's mouth (kidding), and lots of other places you'll think of.

If you go to our Everything SXM Facebook Group, you'll find a picture of them and ordering information. Our current

SXM euro ovals have purple print on a bright white background with a purple sand chair illustration for background. We offer them three for \$15 or \$10 for one. You can pay that to jeff@jmbcommunications.com through PayPal or send a check (US dollar checks drawn on US banks only) payable to JMB Communications mailed to JMB, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362 – 1812.

Our SXM Euro ovals can be mailed only to US and Canadian addresses and to APO/FPO. Our copyrighted purple sand chair euro ovals are not available for sale on SXM. We do accept multiple orders of three should you wish to make them; buy some as gifts! You can also order them by credit card by texting us through the WhatsApp application at 721-588-4188 (texts through WhatsApp only, no phone calls). Or you can simply phone our office at 508-747-8281 and leave credit card information, delivery address, and how many you want in our secure answering system. Delivery takes about two weeks.

If you'd like an advance look at our purple sand chair SXM euro ovals, you will find them in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group**; just use the search window for "purple sand chair."

34. Restaurant of the Week: Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (Not What You Expect)

Whenever new restaurants first open, as Jai's did early this year, adjustments are inevitable during the first few weeks — even if the principals are graduates of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America (CIA), as are the folks here. How Restaurateurs respond during those first few weeks makes all the difference to their future success.

At this point, it's clear that this entirely new contemporary Indian concept restaurant not only brings something highly creative and highly original to the island — something not duplicated elsewhere — but they also have done it a way that's a pure home run, achieving extraordinary success in just their first few months.

Although some of the entrées served at Jai's have familiar names, that's where the similarity to traditional Indian dining — or any other kind of dining — ends. Because Jai's has applied great creativity to everything they do, they offer a spectrum of flavors, textures, aromas, presentation, and ambiance that is unrivaled by any other Indian restaurant on the island and unmatched by most other SXM restaurants, of which there are hundreds.

If you have not yet visited Jay's, we urge you to make it a priority on your next trip to SXM. Regardless of whether you have never tried Indian food or in the past haven't liked it, Jai's offers a level of palate-pleasing that is supremely original and well worth your visit: it's that good.

Don't miss it!

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (featured 6/28/21), Simpson Bay A 15-second walk to the side of the building from Reveil Matin (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.

Emilio's: outside Philipsburg (featured 6/14-21/21) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. Not to be missed. https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 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, <u>www.izirestaurant.com</u> (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.

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. Now relocated at the Carousel, Simpson Bay.

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, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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.

<u>Pure Ocean Restaurant</u> 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, <u>www.pineapplepete.com</u> (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/

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, <u>www.sailstmaarten.com</u> (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.

35. Spiga, Jai's To Receive 2021 Awards of Excellence from Everything SXM

Every year since 2013, our "Everything SXM" media group (everythingSXM.com, SXM Weekly News, and our everythingSXM Facebook and MeWe sites) has distributed Awards of Excellence to various SXM restaurants, hotels, timeshares, jewelry stores, realtors, and other major tourist-oriented businesses.

This year, those awards were created toward the end of 2020 and were distributed early this year. 2021 was a strange year for obvious reasons. Jai's contemporary Indian Cuisine opened well after we had finished deciding who would win 2021 awards, and Spiga had remained closed the first few months of this year as well as the end of last year.

However both are open now and both are spectacular, and as a consequence of that we are taking the unusual step of awarding Awards of Excellence to both restaurants for 2021 this week, in addition to awards presented earlier this year and listed here in SXM Weekly News.

Our warmest congratulations to both of these fine restaurants!

36. 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.

37. 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.

<u>The SkyMed Difference</u>: 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 <u>jeff.berger@skymed.com</u>.

38. 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.

39. 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.

40. 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 everythingsxm.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.

41. 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 <u>outside</u> the USA, CANADA, MEXICO, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA, and the CARIBBEAN (the rest of the world), <u>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.</u>

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 <u>serious or critical illness</u> 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 <u>and requalify</u> for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew <u>before the renewal deadline</u> – 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 <u>age 75 or older and purchase the X-Pat plan</u> 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?

 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 <u>not</u> health insurance – in the "SkyMed universe," SkyMed <u>Takes You Home</u>® 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?

 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?

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 <u>www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html</u>

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) www.cbp.gov

US State Department emergency assistance <u>coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov</u>

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

SkyMed Travel reservations <u>www.skymedtravel.com</u> or email <u>info@skymedtravel.com</u>

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. lti:salways-best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above — it's fast & easy.

From:

JMB Communications
Membership Services
support@imbcommunications.com

42. 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.

43. 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 <u>here</u>. 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 is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

44. 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 everythingsxm.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.

45. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 6/28/21)

AMUSEMENTS

Island Pedals Beer Cycle (Philipsburg)

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson Patty Meotti Laura Fisher Saxon

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:

Kasprowski Publishers

<u>Leisure Car Rental</u>	
Sax Car Rental	
Exclusive Car Rental	
Tropicana Car Rental	
CURAN CICARS	
CUBAN CIGARS:	
<u>Cigar Mack</u>	
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	
Hole III tile Wall, Malio Flaza, Dutoli Side	
MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)	

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES: (See also <u>VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES</u>, 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

<u>IZI</u>

SPIGA

VESNA TAVERNA

ISOLA

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

SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News **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

Bright Path is posting in our Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group

Relocation / Business Formation / Papers Consulting Companies

Updated 6/28/21

Got a Radio While You're in SXM?

Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?

Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM

or On Your Internet-Connected Device at island92.com ...

and hear Jeff Berger LIVE on the air every Monday between about 9:45am and 10am island time on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.

46. 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 <u>JMB SXM Web Media Sponsorships</u> 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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address for continued Secret Site access.

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 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)

6/28/21 #V4-1303 6/28 9:00 pm EDT | Terms of use |

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