

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/19/21: The Hot Mess of Passport Processing; GEBE's Oil Spill; 10,000 737s Involved in Latest Boeing Blunder; Hurricane Season Gets Reinvigorated Next Month; EHAS Works Fine if You Read & Use Our Guide; Sandy Ground Bridge Replacement Starts Today; Sargassum, Pinel, & Tintamarre; The Story of Scott Berger's Third Brain Tumor; Neighboring Islands; Great Beach Reading; Winair [Issue #1306 -- 42 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1306 --- Monday, July 19, 2021
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

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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

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Important Note:

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

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

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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:

FLOATING WEEK 4/13/2021 3/6/2026 Royal Palm Beach - Diamond Resorts For Sale - 2 banked weeks with the Diamond Resorts Destination Exchange Program based on Royal Palm Beach Resort - tier 6 rating. The 2 weeks can be used at the Royal Palm or at any of Diamonds World Wide locations. The Royal Palm reopened

completely renovated in January 2021. Enjoy SXM's highest season in a beachfront ocean facing suite. Royal Palm units feature 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a full kitchen, a spacious interior with upscale amenities, and ocean facing balconies. Additional shops, restaurants and entertainment are on premises and within a short walking distance. This is not an actual unit ownership - only 2 separate weeks - purchase both or individually Looking for \$1500.00 for each week. Guest pays \$50.00 timeshare tax at the Royal Palm. Jim - 1-519-802-0307 Parrott.jim@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/22/2022 2/12/2022 Week 4, 5, 6 Belair Beach Hotel 2 BR, 2BA oceanfront resort on Dutch side Sint Maarten! Located on Little Bay Beach. Fully equipped kitchen, dining and living room w/sleeper sofa. King size bed in Master, double bed in 2nd bedroom. Sleeps 6. TVs in living room and MB. Washer/dryers onsite. Free WiFi. Free beach chair & umbrella reserved for your entire stay and free beach towels provided daily. Free daily maid service. Private balcony overlooking beach and Caribbean. Restaurant/bar and pool on site. Poolside BBQ Mondays. Entertainment in the bar or by the pool. Small grocery and rental car on site. Gated with security. Walking distance to Philipsburg. Lots of restaurants and casinos nearby. US\$ accepted. \$5,000 per week + closing costs Gail 703-455-5365 GDT9512@VERIZON.NET

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our All-New ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group](#)

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

Search the *SXM Weekly News Archives*:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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19. ENDS VERY SOON: 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! ENDS VERY SOON: Details are in this story.

THIS WEEK'S TOP ISLAND NEWS:

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

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, and COVID-19

GETTING HERE:

1. National Media Finally Spotlights Passport Processing Conundrum

For several months, we've been warning *SXM Weekly News* readers whose US passports expire in the near term where and how to get them renewed expeditiously.

The keyword is "expeditiously" since there are 2 million passport transactions in the queue right now for processing. New passport applications are taking about four months to process, and renewals are taking at least three months.

Expedited service still takes a solid eight weeks or more — if you're lucky.

Last week, national media finally noticed this long-term mess, caused by the perfect storm of recovery from Covid and enormous sudden demand from passport users who had done nothing about updating theirs during the depths of the pandemic. Last week, we published information about how to best to get your US passport renewed for a near-term trip. For those who didn't heed our advice months ago to get going on passport renewal, we are repeating the information we recently published below:

There are ways around this, of course, which the US State Department details in [this story](#). The most important point: get as much of a head start as you can; you'll need it.

2. Up to 10,000 More Boeing 737s May Have a Major Technical Problem (CORRECTED)

For many years, the Boeing 737 was a symbol of quality. Initially introduced in the 1960s, the basic 737 has undergone many changes including the infamous Boeing 737 Max.

Although Boeing was (and pretty much remains) the darling of the airframe manufacturing industry, its reputation lately has been taking it on the chin because of the 737 Max debacle; serious manufacturing issues concerning the long-range 787; and the recent FAA refusal to certify the big new 777 X aircraft, about which we wrote here a few weeks ago.

"Maximus" is an airframe industry Gadfly who has been focused in recent years on Boeing's problems. Boeing is the largest manufacturer of commercial airplanes on the planet and is the manufacturer of the vast majority of planes flown in the US for as many years as most people can remember.

Boeing's principal rival these days is Airbus, whose A320 series of aircraft competes directly with the 737. We invite you to read [the latest report concerning an airworthiness directive just filed by the FAA involving about 10,000 737 aircraft currently flying both in the USA and around the world](#). It cites a serious problem with the aircraft, used by some airlines that normally fly passengers from both the US and Canada to SXM. (It is not the dominant aircraft flown to SXM.)

We believe the fix for this problem should be simple compared to the 737 Max debacle. On the other hand, we don't know at this point whether these aircraft are fit to fly until they have been fixed and if not, how quickly that can be remedied.

A pilot flying 737s for one of the large US airlines serving SXM told us what follows; we're not publishing his identity because the comment was not authorized by the airline: *There has been no word from the company about this to the pilots, which makes me think it is a maintenance function only. I think what he [Maximus -Ed.] said at the end hits the nail on the head: Boeing is under such incredible scrutiny from the FAA that ANYTHING that could be a potential safety issue will be addressed. This is my summary: Machines break, older machines break more often, so be aware.*

As always, we'll keep you posted.

3. EHAS System Highly Reliable -- IF You Do What They Ask

EHAS is the acronym for SXM's online program that enables prospective island visitors to apply for admission to the island. It requires prospective visitors to answer several brief questions and to submit their negative Covid test results. It's also where people acquire the Covid insurance that is required for admission to SXM.

At the end of the day, the system has proven itself to be immensely reliable. When many people first look at the requirements, their initial reaction may be that those requirements are daunting — but in reality they are elegantly simple and make an enormous amount of sense to protect everyone from Covid including the powerful Delta variant. *The only time when prospective visitors get in trouble is when they don't pay attention to the requirements and blindly go ahead like a blindfolded dart thrower.*

Months ago when SXM first implemented entry requirements, we created and introduced our **Guide to Entry Requirements** and posted it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as a file. *FILES are here:* [facebook.com/groups/mysxm/files](#) . Click the link and search for "Entry" and you'll find our Guide. Whenever there have been any changes in the process, we have updated that file. There have been about two dozen updates so far.

Before you next visit SXM, we urge you to look at the latest version of our Guide to Entry Requirements and follow it religiously, point by point. When you do that, you will know exactly what the island wants you to do; you will know how to do it; and you'll know when to do it. Equally important, you will know what **not** to do. When you follow those

instructions to the letter, submitting your negative test information correctly, you won't have a problem being admitted.

Every single complaint that we have received from prospective visitors about being denied was caused by failure of the prospective visitors to do what the Guide told them to do. Our Guide can help you be successful in meeting the EHAS requirements prior to your next trip. Use it and please tell all your SXM tourist friends about it as well.

4. Will the Boom in Travel to SXM Go Bust Because of the Surge in US Delta Variant Cases?

Fueled by unvaccinated individuals who are not following anti-Covid 19 protocols established more than a year ago to help all of us combat Covid 19, the Coronavirus Pandemic is surging in the US among members of that unvaccinated community. [Will the surge in cases affect tourism to SXM?](#)

In a word, NO.

Thanks to the bludgeoning SXM withstood by hurricanes Irma and Maria almost 4 years ago, and to the several months long shutdown in tourism that started in March of last year, *the hunger for a speedy return to the island is incredibly strong among literally millions of future island visitors*. In large measure, they count themselves in the majority of Americans who have chosen to get vaccinated — and in many cases, to get fully vaccinated, which qualifies them to come to SXM. The numbers of people vaccinated are enormous and growing, and those tourists continue to tell us that nothing will stop them from a return to the island in the near term.

Indeed, the number of questions we're receiving in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) matches the level of questions we normally get during a typical high season cold-weather month. It's a huge number. As we previously reported here in *SXM Weekly News*, many SXM businesses by saying they are busy — busier than expected and certainly busier than any summer season in recent memory.

That's about the best possible news the island can hear right now.

WEATHER:

5. Tropical Activity Expected to Pick Up in Two Weeks Thx to "Madden Julian Oscillation"

No, we are not going to bore you here with an explanation of what the meteorological phenomenon known as the "Madden Julian Oscillation" is. It is important to understand that the "MJO" causes an uptick in the genesis of tropical cyclones, and that the oscillation will be occurring next early in August and that it may last through much of that month.

As always, we will continue to watch what's happening in the Caribbean for you and our chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown will be doing so as well in a far more detailed and informative way than us.

Important: if you live or work anywhere where tropical cyclones have ever impacted your area — such as anywhere in the Caribbean, or anywhere along the US Gulf or Atlantic coast or in coastal New York or New England, the Canadian Maritimes, getting an inexpensive subscription to the private forecasting services of [Crown Weather](#), Rob Lightbown's organization, can be of enormous value to you. We've subscribed for years. You may already have heard some rumblings about the higher than usual likelihood this year of the US Northeast possibly being impacted by a full-blown hurricane. Experts are pointing to the fact that two years with weather conditions analogous to 2021 were 1938 and 1955, during both of which the Northeast US was severely impacted by tropical cyclones. It's a very real, very big weather threat.

6. Reminder: About Our New Daily Tropical Outlooks

Effective several weeks ago, 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 or frequently through the day. 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.

7. 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.*

8. 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

9. 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 7/1/2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE GUIDE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

10. 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 occurred 7/1/21.

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

11. 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.

12. 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

13. 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 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.

14. 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.

15. 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*.

16. Where to Find SXM Condo Rentals from JMB Members for 2021-22: Everythingshm.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 Fall, next Winter, and beyond.

17. 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

18. 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

*****19. ENDING VERY SOON:*****

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

20. *Please* Help Keep SXM Weekly News Coming by Joining Us:

+++++

MEMBERSHIP SALE NOW UNDERWAY

******* ENDS VERY 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.* Buy 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 everything.sxm.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, everything.sxm.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 Summer so far, **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.....

21. Sandy Ground Bridge Being Replaced; Temporary Inconvenience Ends in Two Months, Authorities Say

Severely damaged by hurricane Irma almost 4 years ago, the Sandy ground drawbridge on the west side of Marigot is slated to be replaced in a major €1.7-million project that gets underway early next month. *FaxInfo* says "This will interrupt maritime traffic between July 19th and September 20th and the road traffic between August 9th and

September 8th."

During much of the period when this work is underway, people who want to travel between Marigot and Sandy ground or Nettle Bay by car or any other motorized vehicle will have to go through the Dutch side by way of the Simpson Bay lagoon Causeway and then through Mullet Bay, Cupecoy, and the lowlands to get to either Nettle Bay or Sandy ground. A footbridge is expected to allow pedestrian traffic to continue to cross the canal. You'll find a complete explanation of the project from government officials [here](#).

We will continue to keep you aware of the progress of this important project.

22. GEBE Causes Oil Spill; Oil Floats Away; Criminal Investigation Launched

As SXM Weekly News has reported a number of times over the years, GEBE — the Dutch side's electricity and water company — has had more than its share of difficulties over the years in providing dependable electricity and uninterrupted water service to the Dutch side of the island. GEBE uses heavy oil as the fuel for its power generation systems. Its main facilities are in Cay Bay. Plumes of smoke heading westward over the sea are clearly visible from the scenic overlook on "the Hill" between Cole Bay and Philipsburg.

Last week, GEBE seemed to reinforce the impression that has long been expressed by many of its customers that it is not the brightest light in the electricity business. It quite belatedly discovered a significant oil spill at its facilities in Cay Bay well after the spill had already made it unimpeded to the Caribbean sea. The Nature Foundation and other third parties sprang into action to try to mitigate or contain the spill but GEBE seemed to do nothing but issue a press release that to us looked like a perfect definition of vacuous tripe (look it up). One would think a power generation / water company in the Caribbean would have a highly comprehensive Disaster Plan but if GEBE has one, it clearly doesn't involve doing anything substantive to mitigate oil spills.

The Nature Foundation, an environmental watchdog group, immediately appealed for public help for cleanup operations, indicating at once that such help was not immediately forthcoming from GEBE, the source of the oil spill. The Dutch side government however was quick to move into action from a legal perspective; the island quickly launched a criminal investigation into the spill to determine responsibility and punishment. Much more on the spill is [here](#). More on the criminal investigation is [here](#).

We'll keep you posted.

23. The Truth About Where The Sargassum Seaweed Is and Where It Isn't

Last week, we published a story here in *SXM Weekly News* telling you where most of the clean beaches are on the island. This week, we want to explain exactly what's happening with Sargassum seaweed from the Sargasso Sea and why you can expect some of this smelly stuff on some parts of the island but not on others.

Normal currents have tropical Atlantic water approaching the eastern side of the island — and those currents periodically include some seaweed from the Sargasso Sea, as they have since 2011 – 2012.

The seaweed is deposited on East facing SXM beaches from which professional crews are removing it as quickly as possible to help keep the beaches clean and to give tourists a pleasant sunbathing and swimming experience there.

Sargassum that passes by the northern and southern ends of the island keeps moving westward and doesn't generally impact West-facing beaches from Little Bay northward (see your island map from Kasprowski publishers at www.midok.com). It also doesn't impact French side beaches on the western and northwestern part of the French side of the island as far north as Happy Bay.

For more on this situation, please see the last couple of issues of *SXM Weekly News* which are about to be added to our [archives](#).

24. The Seaweed Situation at Pinel Island & Tintamarre

The previous article explains how the east side of SXM is impacted significantly more than the west side of the island by Sargassum seaweed. Although both Tintamarre and Pinel island are much smaller than SXM, they are similarly

affected: the west sides of both islands have virtually no seaweed -- and the west side of both islands are the parts that are visited by tourists. It's the east sides of those two islands, not commonly used by tourists, where currents may take the seaweed.

So if you are thinking of taking a daytime excursion either to Pinel island and its beautiful beach and restaurants or to deserted Tintamarre island, visited daily by boat excursions, obviously you can go. Do bear in mind that the ferry from SXM to Pinel island leaves from the ferry terminal on the east side of SXM where there is a fair amount of seaweed that you'll likely slog through on the way to Pinel — only a couple of minutes of annoyance to get a great day on the beach.

25. Neighboring Islands Reopening; Are they All The Same?

Have you ever thought about visiting SXM's neighboring islands — Anguilla, Saba, St. Barth, Nevis, or St. Eustatius? Despite the fact that they're all in the same area of the Caribbean Sea, they're all night-and-day different islands — remarkably different.

Anguilla, SXM's closest neighbor, is a British island. One big difference there is that they drive on the wrong side of the road — as you might have seen in BBC television programs. The island has gorgeous beaches, beautiful and expensive resorts, and some great restaurants -- although we would argue that several of SXM's restaurants are even better.

Resorts on Anguilla vary in size but many are quite large and on their own beautiful beaches. They are expensive, though not as expensive as St. Barth, which we'll talk about next.

Naturists visiting Anguilla need to keep their clothes on; naturist publications do refer to Anguilla as being "British and very uptight" -- there are no nude beaches. We've met people on Cupecoy beach and on Orient who take day trips off Anguilla to experience clothing optional sunbathing on SXM.

St. Barth has much smaller, much more exclusive ultra-luxury resorts than either Anguilla or SXM. It's not unusual for resorts here to charge over \$1000 per night — not including food. The restaurants here are world-class and are generally very busy. The island is French and it does have several official clothing optional beaches. It also is renowned for shopping in the capital of Gustavia — not the jewelry shopping you see in Philipsburg, but all kinds of other shopping for high couture and much more. Many of the private jets you see in SXM each winter are owned by the rich and famous, who fly to St. Barth from SXM by helicopter to their estates or other places of accommodation -- or to the decks of their megayachts and supermegayachts which then sail over to St. Barth.

There are frequent ferries to St. Barth from SXM, but the water can be rough especially when you're sailing into currents on the way there. It's much faster and easier to take a flight on **Winair**, the local airline, which will take you to St. Barth in about seven minutes. Landings there are adventurous but they are highly routine for the experienced pilots of Winair who are authorized to fly that particular route.

The island of **Saba** is totally different from any other nearby island since it is volcanic in origin, has no beaches good for swimming, and is mainly a place for SCUBA as well as a great getaway. It's a very quiet place and offers challenging hikes to the top of the mountain made famous many years ago by King Kong (Google it). Saba is a getaway that you will long remember. If you are a diver, it is especially rewarding.

Last on our list is **St. Eustatius**, also commonly known as Statia. It, too, is very different from all the other islands in this area. Its beaches tend to be very rough and natural and are seldom used for swimming because they can be very treacherous. The island has an extinct volcano at its far end. There, with an appropriate guide, you can descend into the cone of the volcano — an experience that many actually seek here. There is also a great deal of diving available off the coast of Statia.

In some places on Statia you will see walls or fences that are made completely of conch shells — hundreds of them. The island is very quiet, simple, and serene. A new resort was being built there couple of years ago — it was to be the island's first high-end resort.

Nevis, next to the busy island of St. Kitts, is very much underdeveloped, perhaps like SXM was 70 years ago. It has far more goats than people. It does have interesting ruins scattered around the island which makes it a great location for history buffs. Those among our readers who are history buffs know that Alexander Hamilton was brought up in Nevis -- and in fact while there we visited the home where he was raised.

Nevis has some beautiful beaches and you will find the stories of the familiar name Mary Pomeroy here — she is part of this island's history as she is part of SXM's history: Google her for some eye-opening information. The nicest natural resort here may very well be Nisbet Bay Plantation, which is where Mary Pomeroy spent some time many years ago. She was also the storied Mary of Mary's Boon in St. Maarten.

In our opinion, none of these islands is really similar to SXM. SXM has more jewelry shopping — far more — than all

the other islands put together. It has terrific beaches, especially for those who wish to go topless or get an allover tan. The restaurants in SXM, long regarded as the culinary capital of the Caribbean, easily stand toe to toe with the best restaurants on Anguilla or St. Barths. But definitely check out the others for a remarkably different slice of Caribbean life.

26. Do Some Island Hopping With Winair...

In 2019, we spent a lot of time on neighboring islands researching them for some work we were doing for Fodor's *Essential Caribbean* directory. We covered St. Maarten, St. Martin, St. Barth, Anguilla, and Statia for that publication and we used Winair airlines to move from SXM to each of the other islands (except Anguilla). The flights are fast, smooth, reasonably priced, and very efficient; Winair is a great little airline and we strongly recommend it.

27. Some New, Fun Beach Reading from Russell Clark

Author Russell Clark has just published his second novel based in your favorite place, SXM. Although this adventure begins in Abaco in the Bahamas, it quickly moves back to SXM where interesting things happen in Casinos, in timeshare resorts, on topless or nude beaches, and in a surprising number of other SXM landmarks you're sure to recognize.

In its first few weeks after release, *Return to the Islands* has already become the #1 new release in Caribbean Travel on Amazon, an incredible achievement.

One of the many neat things in author Clark's writings on SXM is their scenic and locational authenticity, which means a lot to fans of the island. The second book in an ongoing series, *Return to the Islands* brings home many more familiar places including Royal Palm, Flamingo, Toppers Rhum, Nettle Beach, the once great La Belle Creole, Roxxy's, Vesna Taverna, Pineapple Pete, Lee's, and lots of others. What's not to love? It's uncomplicated, fun and easy beach reading that will raise your eyebrows but always keep you smiling. Highly recommended! [Order it on Amazon](#).

28. Adopting an Island Dog (or Cat) is Faster, Easier, and Cheaper Than You Think

Have you ever thought how wonderful it would be to adopt a dog or cat from SXM? "Rescue" animals come in many breeds and sizes and all they need is a new forever home — perhaps with you.

If you think it's prohibitively expensive to adopt a rescue dog from SXM, we have a pretty wonderful surprise for you: it's way less expensive than you may think.

For example pups from SXM Paws can be had for ROUGHLY a \$150 adoption fee, and a flight fee of \$125 with Jet Blue (American Airlines is about the same). Kittens from The Island Vet are \$90 and flights same cost as above.

That's very affordable.

Watch for posts about available animals in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Or, if you'd like to do it now, contact Cyndi Shell in our Everything SXM Facebook Group; she coordinates adoptions with many people directly from our site.

29. Third Brain Tumor Leads to Surgery for Scott Berger

Many of you know that our son Scott was hospitalized for several weeks earlier this year after suffering multiple seizures. He had had two brain tumors about 20 years ago but no significant issues since -- until the seizures started in January. He was hospitalized for five weeks.

In the last few weeks, his neurosurgeons found a third brain tumor which doctors removed almost two weeks ago. Scott is in good spirits and is recovering. *Scott's passion has been the National Brain Tumor Society and they need the help of all of us.*

This is from Scott: "I have registered to fund-raise for the National Brain Tumor Society's (NBTS) Fall Challenge: Miles for Milestones because I am passionate about the NBTS mission to conquer and cure brain tumors -- once and for all. Many may know that at the start of 2021 I was in the hospital for 5 weeks. Now summer 2021 there are more challenges brain tumor wise that we are navigating. NBTS needs your support. I need your support. After a year like no other, supporting me and this mission is more critical than ever. No donation is too small. With your help, we can make

a difference in the lives of those living with a brain tumor... like myself for the *THIRD* time. Thank you for your support and please consider tuning in as we honor this community on October 17th." [Please click this \(revised\) link to help everyone afflicted with brain tumors, like Scott.](#)

PLEASE GIVE; no gift is too small (or too large). THANK YOU. To donate, click the link below. So far Scott has raised nearly \$6K for the National Brain Tumor Society but his goal is 10K, please help! Our family will be grateful for all you do to help NBTS.

Here is the [NBTS link](#).

30. Where & When SkyMed Protects You

Basic SkyMed short-term and annual memberships protect you throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. In that SkyMed universe, SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become critically ill or injured. Optional protection covering most of the rest of the world is provided by GETS, Global Emergency Transportation Services, a SkyMed company.

For much more SkyMed information please see a few of SkyMed-related articles that appear later in this issue.

31. 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."

32. Restaurant of the Week: Emilio's

SXM culinary veterans Su and Norm Wathey opened Emilio's at around the time Irma had visited SXM. The stone-built restaurant easily withstood Irma's fury and is widely regarded as one of the top restaurants on the island. Norm and Su previously had owned the famous Kangaroo Court restaurant in downtown Philipsburg next to the historic courthouse, and they continue to operate the Blue Beach Bar, formerly Taloula mango's, on the boardwalk in downtown Philipsburg.

With award-winning Chef Sidney in command in the kitchen, this is a spectacular restaurant located on the historic Emilio Wilson estate just outside of Philipsburg. Parking is easy, the location is gorgeous, and the food is downright spectacular. Contact the restaurant to find their current opening hours, which may vary. Emilio's is not only a romantic spot for couples, it's also big enough to accommodate groups, which it does very well. Advance reservations are essential and menu offerings can be customized in advance for groups. *SXM Weekly News* doesn't publish photographs but our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) does, and the a there for Emilio's will bring up lots of positive comments and also pictures of some of their great dining.

Emilio's has also been a consistent winner of our **Everything SXM Culinary Award of Excellence**. Definitely make it a must-go on your next visit to the island. You might just see us there....

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Emilio's: outside Philipsburg (featured 7/19/21) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed.**

<https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 7/12/21) 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.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 7/6/21) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai. Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by knowledgeable service. Go...you'll become a regular.

Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (featured 6/28/21), **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.

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.

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.

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/>

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, 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.

33. 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.

34. 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](#).

35. 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.

36. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military /

First Responders, visit everythingxsm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

37. 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

38. 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.

39. 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

40. 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.

41. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 7/19/21)

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

Caribbean Brewing

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS

Alisha Brookes

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

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 7/6/21

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.

42. 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://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. *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:

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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)

7/19/21 #V4-1306 7/18 6:00 am EDT | [Terms of use](#) |

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