

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/26/21: Chef Dies in Car Crash; jetBlue Sends Erroneous SXM Covid Testing Email to SXM-Bound Passengers;  
GEBE Oil Spill Criminal Investigation Continues; The ERB - Island 92 - SXM - Tokyo Olympics Connection; Cruise Ship Visits Rising;  
Sea Turtle Nesting Sites Caution; [Issue #1307 -- 37 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1307 --- Monday, July 26, 2021  
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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## **[Member News](#)**

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

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

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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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://everythingxm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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

**Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:**

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

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

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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](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 RENTAL 4/17/2021 10/30/2021 Week 16 thru Week 43 Royal Palm Beach Club 2 Bed Ocean Front Sleeps 6** Available every week April 17th thru Oct 3 2021 3 miles from airport shuttle service to resorts sister property Flamingo Beach Resort. All units are beachfront on Simpson Bay Kim Sha Beach. Completely renovated opened Jan of 2021 Walk to over 20 restaurants, Sports Bars casino night clubs several deli's and supermarkets \$1,200 Jim 401-885-4092 [pskoczy@verizon.net](mailto:pskoczy@verizon.net)

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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 unit at oceanfront resort on Dutch side.** 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 daily. Free daily maid service. Private balcony overlooking beach / Caribbean. Restaurant/bar, pool on site. Poolside BBQ Mondays. Entertainment at bar or pool. Small grocery and rental car on site. Gated with security. Walking distance to Philipsburg. Lots of restaurants and casinos nearby. US\$ accepted. \$9,000 per week + closing costs Gail 703-455-5365 [GDT9512@VERIZON.NET](mailto:GDT9512@VERIZON.NET)

**See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)**

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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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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**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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[www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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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](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...

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### All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\*

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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. jetBlue Sends Erroneous Message to SXM Passengers

JetBlue recently sent a well-intentioned but factually incorrect message to some of its frequent fliers who have reservations to visit SXM. The erroneous message gives information that, if followed, could make it much more difficult for some of those passengers to be allowed on their flights.

In a section of the JetBlue letter entitled "entry requirements and required documents for St. Maarten," the company included this **incorrect** information: Travelers to St. Maarten must present proof of a negative Covid 19 PCR test taken no more than five days prior to departure, or alternately, proof of a negative antigen tests obtained from a nasopharyngeal swab taken within 48 hours prior to departure."

In fact, SXM has never had any requirement for PCR test to be taken no more than "five days" prior to departure. The figure had been 120 hours, which is quite different from five days, but it was changed a number of weeks ago to 72 hours for PCR tests which is where it still stands.

For the latest correct information about SXM entry Requirements and what you must do to get back into the United States after your trip is over, follow this link:

**For ACCURATE answers to all Entry Requirements / returning to US requirements questions, see our complete GUIDE TO ENTRY REQTS in the FILES area of our FB SXM site. FILES are here:**

**[facebook.com/groups/mysxm/files](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm/files). Use the SEARCH window for "Entry".** You must join the site before you can see the Files. When joining, don't forget to answer our brief but required vetting questions.



## 2. Most Commonly Asked Question: When Can I Travel With Just Proof of Vaccination?

Of all the questions we are asked related to SXM Entry Requirements, the most common is, "When can I travel to SXM with just proof of vaccination?"

Some countries are already enabling proof of vaccination for entry. Because of the sharp rise worldwide of the Delta variant of Covid, which is more easily transmissible than the original Covid 19 and which is also potentially more lethal, countries which have liberalized their Entry Requirements may in fact reverse those liberalizations to try to make it more difficult for anyone to get in to their respective countries with Covid or the Delta variant. That's why in the United States we are seeing mask mandates re-instituted in an increasing number of states.

The explosion in Delta cases worldwide and the liberalization of Entry Requirements led to a stunning new business among counterfeiters, who quickly developed and started selling online fake proofs of vaccinations. So, any country allowing proof of vaccination for entry must have a system that is ironclad secure against counterfeiting — a tall order.

We're not going to guess when proof of vaccination will be an acceptable method of entering SXM (or anyplace else). With Covid, further mutations/variants are not just possible, they are becoming increasingly likely by the day.

The current system that SXM is using to make entry to the country safe for all concerned is working well. Though it seems daunting at first, it is actually elegantly simple. If it ain't broke, don't fix it....

## WEATHER:

## 3. In Another Week, Tropical Activity Expected to Awaken

Thanks to the Madden Julian oscillation which we have explained here previously, tropical activity is expected to start percolating early next month, and continue percolating through the month of August. In fact, this past weekend, forecasters were predicting a possible tropical development affecting parts of Florida and states bordering the Northeast Gulf of Mexico — the first activity in several weeks.

Please see the next story.

## 4. 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.*

## 5. 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.*

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## 6. 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.

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## **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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

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### **COVID-19: General Information**

## 7. 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.

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### **COVID-19: Guide to Entry Requirements - Please Read and Retain - REVISED 7/1/2021**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE GUIDE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

## 8. 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](https://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)***

### **9. 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](https://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.***

### **10. 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](http://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***

### **11. 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](http://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 from a security perspective. The ads were updated recently with dozens of new weeks added. 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 and 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.

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## 12. 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.

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## 13. 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*.

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## 14. 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 Fall, next Winter, and beyond.

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## 15. 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.

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### **SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits**

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## 16. 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**

### **\*\*\*\*\*17. 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

## 18. \*Please\* Help Keep SXM Weekly News Coming by Joining Us:

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### MEMBERSHIP SALE NOW UNDERWAY

\*\*\*\*\* ENDS JULY 31 \*\*\*\*\*

**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 [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com) and clicking the page curl, or phone us.

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

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

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

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

We hope you are having a pleasant 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::::::::::::**

## **19. Local Chef Killed, Others Injured in Cole Bay Crash**

A local chef was killed Wednesday night in a car accident in Cole Bay. Police say a Chevrolet Equinox SUV believed to have been driven by Francis Adoptie, the chef at Palapa Grill in Simpson Bay on the Dutch side, overtook several other cars stopped behind a Hyundai i10 that was making a left turn into the gas station west of the Kruithoff Roundabout. The Equinox SUV apparently broadsided the i10 as it was turning, destroying both vehicles.

Police reports imply that the occupants of the white Equinox SUV were not wearing their seatbelts, and that the driver of the Equinox, the chef, was wedged behind the steering wheel of his car. It is not known whether airbags were installed in the car or whether they functioned in the crash.

We spoke with Steph K., the tourist who was driving the i10 when it was hit by the Equinox. She said all of the occupants of the i10 were wearing their seatbelts and were shaken up in the accident but that all were okay. Ms. K. was scheduled to return home this past Saturday as originally planned. We have no information about funeral arrangements for the Chef Francis, or late condition information on the others in the Chevrolet Equinox some of whom were "severely" injured in the crash, according to press reports.

Here is [more](#) on the accident.

Chef Dino Jagtiani and many others offered condolences to the family of the chef. Dino said, " All chefs on Sxm lost a brother. Your kindness, passion, and talent will always be remembered. Heaven is feasting tonight. My deepest condolences to the family for this heartbreaking loss."

KPSM, the Dutch side police department, offer this admonition to drivers in its press release on the accident:

"The public is reminded that the roadways are very busy during this time of the year. Police urge all motorists to drive with caution as mistakes can result in the unfortunate loss of not only your life but of those around you. Avoid senseless accidents by following the road rules to ensure the safety of all.

#### "Driving Safety Tips

- Do not drink and drive
- Obey the speed limit
- Do not use cell phones when driving
- Ensure the vehicle is in a roadworthy condition
- Guard against distractions while driving
- Ensure all vehicle occupants wear a seat belt
- Maintain a safe following distance while driving

## 20. Island 92's ERB Is An Olympic Videographer -- Now Broadcasting from Tokyo!

Thousands of tourists simply know him as ERB, the mid-day voice of Island92 radio for many years. He also has been the sound behind many of the ads you hear on the station, at 91.9 FM. But the reality is that ERB does much more than you hear on Island92. He is also an accomplished videographer who works on a regular basis with NBC News. He is also a technology guru who knows pretty much everything there is to know about all kinds of broadcast video — including how to fix it.

Right now, ERB is covering Olympic basketball in Tokyo for NBC News. Here's more from station owner Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin:

*ERB is also doing double duty as a Spider Cam expert and technician. [Look up Spider Cam in Google -- you've seen the work of these professional, suspended event drones on TV but never knew what they were. -Ed.] He is one of a limited number of Spider Cam experts in the world. He is covering Olympic basketball. We are thrilled to have ERB representing Island92 at the Olympics even while he is being Mr Spider cam. Who says Island92 isn't global? At the same time that he's covering the Olympics, ERB has been doing his Island92 show from Tokyo and we could not be more proud of ERB's accomplishments.*

Listen live to Island92 at 91.9FM or [www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com).

## 21. Dutch Caribbean Precedent Set: Get Vaccinated or Get Fired

It may be that employees of Dutch Caribbean businesses have a choice: get vaccinated against Covid 19 or face being fired.

There are two good pieces of news here for the employees, however. First, they are being motivated to get a vaccine that may save their lives (or at least keep them out of the hospital if they get Covid after being vaccinated); and second, they would be eligible for some sort of payout by their employer if they must be fired for noncompliance.

Here is the rest of the story, quoted from [here](#).

*Willemstad - Instant dismissal for not being vaccinated is null and void, but dissolution of the employment contract with the granting of a minimum severance payment is possible.*

*The court in Curaçao has made this socially important decision. In essence, it concerns the question of whether an employer can directly or indirectly oblige his employee to be vaccinated against Covid-19. In line with this, the question is whether an employee's refusal to be vaccinated against Covid-19 constitutes an urgent reason for summary dismissal. The company, which concerns Century Trust Curaçao, located in the WTC, states that the refusal of the 25-year-old employee to be vaccinated constitutes an urgent reason for dismissal because they have the other (older, ed.) staff, partly in view of on the limited space and the poor ventilation possibilities, exposes to the risk of Covid infection. However, the employee argues that there is no legal obligation to vaccinate and that Century is acting in violation of her (fundamental) right to respect for her privacy and physical integrity.*

*In its assessment, the court takes the following into account. "There is no general vaccination obligation and such obligations do not fit within the employment relationship either." After all, vaccination affects the fundamental right of citizens to inviolability of the human body and the right to respect for privacy. Employers must respect these fundamental rights of their employees.*



*"However, an infringement of a fundamental right by the employer can be justified under certain circumstances," the court continues. To this end, it is important that the act that infringes serves a legitimate aim and/or that the act is a suitable means to achieve that aim (necessity). In addition, it must be assessed whether the infringement is proportionate in relation to the employer's interest in achieving the intended objective (proportionality) and whether the objective can also be achieved in a less drastic manner (subsidiarity).*

*'Employer must protect workplace'*

*The judge: "The employer has the legal obligation to protect its employees and third parties in the workplace as much as possible against a Covid-19 infection. This employer's responsibility can be taken into account when assessing whether there is a legitimate aim to infringe an employee's fundamental rights."*

*Immediate dismissal must be regarded as an 'ultimum remedium', intended for acts, characteristics or behavior of the employee (urgent reason), which means that the employer cannot reasonably be expected to allow the employment contract to continue. "The refusal to vaccinate cannot be grouped under this without a legal vaccination obligation." After all, this is a major violation of the employee's privacy.*

*According to the verdict, the Covid-19 pandemic is "shaking relations on several fronts". "The employee's right to respect for privacy and physical integrity may be at odds with the employer's interest in protecting itself, its employees and third parties in the workplace against contamination. The circumstances may mean that continuation of the employment relationship is no longer feasible." In the opinion of the court, this is the case in the case of the employee and Century.*

*The court concludes that it has become sufficiently plausible that there has been a change in the circumstances that should lead to the dissolution of the employment contract. The employment contract will be terminated with effect from 1 August 2021 and the company must grant additional compensation, which is deducted from the benefit to which the employee is entitled under the Cessantia national ordinance.*

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## 22. GEBE Oil Spill Remains Under Investigation; No Beach Impact

As we have reported here in *SXM Weekly News*, GEBE, the Dutch side's electric company, had an oil spill at its Cay Hill facility on the western side of the island. The spill went into the Caribbean Sea.

We have seen no news releases about the criminal investigation the police have undertaken into the spill, and no information about how much oil was leaked, what type of oil was involved, or whether there was any ecological damage. We doubt the latter, since prevailing winds would likely take anything spilled and move it westward, away from the island.

Also, depending on the type of oil involved, some might evaporate or sink to the bottom. The SXM Nature Foundation took steps immediately to summon forces from the island to help mitigate the spill, as we also reported recently here. GEBE's reaction was not one of response, from what we could determine — their main response was to write a piece of PR for social media rather than try at once to work on cleaning up the mess they created.

We will follow up with information on the criminal investigation against GEBE as it moves forward and as police release more information on what they have found out.

This was the statement posted by GEBE while the spill was underway:

July 14, 2021 In a statement received on Tuesday July 13th, 2021, the public utility company NV GEBE reported that the company's Production division, encounter an internal fuel leak caused by the ruptured Heavy Fuel supply line of building no.2 . The company further reported, that once the leak was identified, the source was immediately isolated.

However, prior to the aforementioned event, the leaked fuel had already gravitated into the rain water drain line which leads towards the Cay Bay shoreline and escalated into a fuel spill. Subsequently, the company managed to acquire additional sorbent booms and pads from one of our local vendors "Budget Marine" in effort to clean up and maintain as much fuel as possible.

In addition, N.V. GEBE Interim Managing Director Mr. Mauricio Dembrook, sincerely expressed his sentiments regarding this matter and would like to reassure the general public that N.V. GEBE is doing its best not only to supply a reliable source of electricity and water but to also operate within a sustainable manner in order to avoid future spills.

Mr. Dembrook also extended his gratitude to the Nature Foundation and Coast Guard for their kind assistance throughout this process.

**SXM Weekly News Comments:** Every responsible company has a Disaster Plan to deal with any eventuality. Had GEBE developed such a comprehensive plan, it should have foreseen fuel spills and stockpiled mitigation supplies to attack such leaks and stop them in their tracks. There also should be leak detection and mitigation capabilities across

the entire GEBE infrastructure but that apparently didn't happen either. It would be nice to see GEBE do its job competently and successfully -- but every day the evidence continues to indicate that it simply doesn't know how. It had better find out soon for the continued good of Country Sint Maarten.

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## 23. Cruise Ship Visits Up; Second Ship to Home Port in SXM

Cruise ship visits continue to increase on the Dutch side of the island. Plus, a second ship is about to start home porting on SXM — all good news for the economy of the island.

You'll find the details [here](#).

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## 24. Avoid Sea Turtle Nesting Sites

Sea turtles traditionally nest around this time of year, laying dozens of eggs in a shallow area on some of the island's beaches.

If you see an area marked off indicating that has been visited by a nesting turtle, leave the area alone; don't go close to it and don't disturb it, because it's very easy to endanger threatened species of sea turtles. Here is [much more information](#) on this topic.

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## 25. 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.

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## 26. 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](mailto: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."

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## 27. Restaurant of the Week: Astra Steak & Seafood

Astra, Anish Chugani's latest culinary masterpiece in Simpson Bay, has transformed the former location of Snoopy's bar and restaurant to a showplace — a beautiful open-air modernistic design with sensual mood lighting, live entertainment, great service from experienced servers, and a spectrum of delicious culinary offerings.

Anish has set up an in-the-lagoon open-range concept for the many lobsters the restaurant sells every night. You can walk back there to see the large, well-let lobster pool and pick your own if you like.

The restaurant specializes in a full spectrum of steak and seafood offerings, and it also has a delicious spectrum of appetizers.

No matter what you do, when you come to Astra you absolutely must save room for dessert. We had their incredibly moist carrot cake not long ago — it's only one of several reasons that Astra, like its neighbors Movida and Avantika, received a culinary Award of Excellence from Everything SXM early this year: it's that good.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 7/26/21)** 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/>

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.isolaristorante.com)

**IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**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](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

**Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, [www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant](http://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](http://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.

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## 28. 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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com).**

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## 29. 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](#).

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## 30. 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.

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## 31. 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](http://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.

## 32. 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](http://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](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

Canadian government updates [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html)

National Institutes of Health (NIH) [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

US State Department emergency assistance [coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov)

World Health Organization (WHO) [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

SkyMed Travel reservations [www.skymedtravel.com](http://www.skymedtravel.com) or email [info@skymedtravel.com](mailto:info@skymedtravel.com)

SkyMed Member Services **1-480-946-5188** or **1-800-475-9633** or [memberservices@skymed.com](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm) or you can email him at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

## **33. 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.

## **34. 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).

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## **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](http://skymed.com/jmb). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

## **See the [rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)**

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### **35. 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 [everythingsexm.com](http://everythingsexm.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.

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### **36. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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

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**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](http://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.**

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## **37. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic**

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://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](mailto: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.

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**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.](#)**

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**Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated**



JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml) .

**Want to rent or buy a week?**

**\*2020 & 21 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\*** are posted at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

### **SECTION 5: For Members Only**

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)**

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **[susank@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

**Privacy Policy** [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

7/26/21 #V4-1307 7/25 9:00 am EDT | [Terms of use](#) |

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