

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 8/2/21: **Busy Hurricane Season Starts Bubbling in Mid-August; Comparing Timeshares with All-Inclusives; Mullet Bay Resort Property Still Empty 26 Years After Hurricane Luis; The Fascinating Life of Mary Pomeroy; Cow Steals Bra, Parades it All Over Town; Spiga Wins Honors; Mama Pizza is Much More Than Pizza; Hurricane Preps Checklist; Hundreds of Timeshare Condo Rentals Available on Our Site [Issue #1308 -- 40 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1308 --- Monday, August 2, 2021
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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at the end of this newsletter.

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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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

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Weather; Getting Here; Covid:

- ***Rob Lightbown Expects Busy Hurricane Period Mid-August to Mid September***
- ***Hurricane Supplies Checklist***
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- ***Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info***

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- ***How To Protect Yourself from the Delta Variant***
- ***Why Buy a Timeshare?***
- ***The Quixotic, Fascinating Life of Mary Pomeroy (The "Mary" of Mary's Boon)***
- ***Cow Runs Away With Woman's Bra (No, Really)***
- ***SPIGA Honored by Selection to Top 10% of World's Restaurants***
- ***Restaurant of the Week: Mama Pizza - More Than Just Pizza***
- ***Key Differences Between SkyMed Short-Term & Annual Memberships***
- ***Huge SkyMed Medevac Membership Sale ENDS SOON***
- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***

 -- ***Get SkyMed Medevac Protection BEFORE You Need It***
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-- ***Please Patronize JMB Sponsors***
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 -- ***SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic***

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 12/12/2021 12/19/2021 50 Divi Little Bay TWO bedroom, TWO bath unit with 1 full kitchen and 1 half kitchen. Washer and dryer in unit. On the beach near Gizmos Bar and Grille weeks 51 and 52 also available. \$2,000 Nancy. 267-909-1200 nancy@probatelawpro.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/6/2021 3/13/2021 10 Flamingo Beach Resort Two bedroom lockout villas in Bld.3, ocean view, 2 full kitchens, sleeper sofas, each unit sleeps 4. washer and dryer in each unit. Swimming pool and beach. Fully renovated and just opened January 1, 2021 \$5,000.00 4409674641
Deborah DEBCOLEST7@GMAIL.COM

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/jeffbergerseverythingsxmmewegroup>

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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Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

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19. ENDS NEXT MONTH: 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.

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C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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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. Slight Updates Made to Our Guide to Entry Requirements

This weekend, we completed some slight updates to our **Guide to Entry Requirements**, mentioned below (story 9).

There have been no significant changes to entry requirements as they affect US and Canadian citizens visiting SXM. However, based upon user experience utilizing our Guide to Entry Requirements, we periodically make small refinements to improve the clarity and effectiveness of the Guide. That's what we will have completed by the end of the evening Sunday, yesterday. You will know when the update has been completed because the Guide will appear in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). In addition, the update date code in the document will reflect Sunday's date.

Here is information about accessing the Guide: **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. Use the SEARCH window for entry**

2. Passport Office Hiring to Cut 2-Million Apps Logjam

The United States Department of State/Customs and Border Patrol is hiring a significant number of new agents in an attempt to catch up on processing about 2 million outstanding applications for passport renewals and for new passports. Although the timetable for getting things back to normal eliminating the logjam has not been published, nonetheless it is still expected to take a minimum of three or four months before they are ready to say that they are caught up.

Handling these operations is very serious business requiring meticulous training. There is no magic wand for rapidly

processing applications caught in the logjam.

We will continue to keep you posted, as we have been since the logjam first started to appear last spring.

WEATHER:

3. Rob Lightbown Expects Busy Hurricane Period Mid-August to Mid-September

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown, who is chief meteorologist for Crown Weather and for both *SXM Weekly News* and Island92 radio, is reporting to subscribers of his private forecasting service that he expects the 2021 hurricane season to become quite busy starting around the middle of this month (roughly a week and 1/2 from now) continuing through mid-September.

He and other meteorologists have compared the weather this year in the Northeast US with the weather experienced during the year 1938, when a major, very severe hurricane slammed into Eastern Long Island and southern New England. The setup of upper winds and other weather features then was very similar to what is happening this summer over New England, which means that major storms coming up the East Coast *could* possibly be steered into the Northeast.

There are currently no hurricanes on the map and nothing is expected to happen until roughly the middle of this month, if then. We are telling you this so you keep your eyes open if you live in that area; you need to stay aware of weather conditions in your area during the next 60+ days.

We're not suggesting you rush out and buy hurricane preparation materials but an article on that for future reference appears next here in *SXM Weekly News*

4. Hurricane Supplies Checklist

If you live or work in any area that is ever faced with any disaster ⚡🌪️hurricanes, floods, wildfires, blizzards, etc. ⚡🌪️you need to be prepared. The following list was prepared by Florida disaster officials and it is very comprehensive, including many things you may not have thought of. Not everything it lists may be appropriate for everyone, but much that is listed here is very important for most people.

[This document](#) is a downloadable Adobe Acrobat PDF; just click the link and you will have the downloaded Hurricane Supplies Checklist, which you should save and also print out for immediate reference and use.

5. 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.

6. 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.*

7. 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

8. 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

9. 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 this past weekend.**

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

10. 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.

11. 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





12. Comparing Timesharing/Hotels With All-Inclusives

Many people visiting SXM for the first time gravitate toward all-inclusive resorts such as Sonesta Ocean Point near SXM Airport on the Dutch side or the Secrets Resort in Anse Marcel on the French side.

When questions are asked about SXM all-inclusive resorts in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), timeshare owners and other visitors who have visited the island for many years usually try to convince those planning on going All-inclusive to change their mind and go to a timeshare resort or hotel, primarily since SXM is known globally for the excellence and variety of its restaurants.

Regardless, first time visitors often want to stay where everything is at hand and easily accessible. Despite the fact that

they select an AI resort, they still normally venture out multiple days during the week to explore the island and check out its shopping -- and they may venture out at night to try a couple of the island's superb restaurants. Their reasoning is that just because they paid for all-inclusive including dining, they aren't barred from leaving their resorts and going elsewhere for dinner at least a couple of times during their stays.

In fact, these introductions   vaguely like the interactions many cruise ship passengers have with the island in their first few hours visiting   very often lead to return trips usually spent in SXM hotels or [rented timeshare condominiums](#).

If you participate in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), and if you are a timeshare owner on SXM, we ask you to be tolerant of people who choose AI. Some do it because they have young children or grandchildren and want everything close at hand. Others are new to the island and need to do a bit of exploring before staying at a place on an island with which they are totally unfamiliar. Cut them some slack: they're literally just sticking their toes in the water.



Newbies coming to St. Maarten will learn how the island differs remarkably from so many others (see last week's articles on all of SXM's neighboring islands in our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#), updated this past weekend).

Coming to a new place can be a rather daunting experience, but newbies learn about it quickly when they get a taste for this unique island.

13. JUST UPDATED: Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condos for Rent from Timeshare Owners

Listings Just Updated: 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 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 SXM timeshare owners who are JMB Website Supporters members, 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. If there were ever any issue, who know who these folks are.... but there have never been any issues with our sellers. The ads were updated just days ago with dozens of new weeks added. The weeks are never offered 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 either, which enables you and the timeshare owner to deal directly with each other without third-party fees.

[Go here](#) to see our current selection of SXM timeshare weeks for rent and for sale. The list is 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: EverythingSXM.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters are posting 2021 and 2022 timeshare rentals on our main SXM website, [everythingSXM.com](#). Much more information about available rentals is on our timeshare rentals and sales page there. It is certainly not too early to start making reservations for 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 everythingSXM.com.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

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. ENDS NEXT MONTH:*******

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

+++++

**Join Our
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**

+++++

**and you'll
HELP US CONTINUE TO PUBLISH
SXM WEEKLY NEWS**

We know readers / JMB members have uncertainties -- for clearly obvious reasons. Our business has been adversely affected by Covid-19 as have most businesses worldwide and we need your help now to continue be able to research, write, produce, and distribute SXM Weekly News to you, its more than 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.

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
- 5 years \$139



Sign up by going to everythingsexm.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
- **Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149; please ACT NOW.**

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, everythingsexm.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.

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. 26 Years Later, No Extrication from Hurricane Luis' Mullet Bay Devastation

26 years ago next month, hurricane Luis slammed the island in what was, at that time, arguably the worst hurricane in island history.

Most of the devastation wrought by Luis has long since disappeared, with the exception of the La Belle Creole resort in Nettle Bay, French side. But there is one other staggeringly obvious remembrance of that storm on the Dutch side: what's left of Mullet Bay Beach Resort, which at one time was SXM's busiest, most sought after, most active resort

property.

The entire resort was obliterated by Luis -- pummeled by huge waves coming from Mullet Bay beach and by screaming winds. Today, SXM's economy continues to suffer as that highly attractive prime piece of real estate remains simply a site where there is nothing but SXM's only golf course and a beautiful beach. That's thanks to a number of court cases and the fact that the government continues to have a *laissez-faire* attitude toward development projects.

We have seen, and have published information about, a few abortive attempts to develop the property, but in most cases, developers wanted their proposed structures to surround Mullet Bay beach, a nonstarter from the government's perspective. The beach is public, very popular with locals, and government wants it to stay that way.

The property is enormously valuable because of its convenient location near the airport and its gorgeous beach. The property is also close to the increasingly vibrant Cupecoy beach / AUC Medical School / culinary scenes -- and to increasing numbers of condominium owners attracted by the area's beauty, its proximity to the airport, and its closeness to a spectrum of gorgeous island beaches.

Ever since hurricane Luis hit in 1995, people have been wondering when the old Mullet Bay Beach Resort property will be redeveloped. Sadly, the consistent answer is that nobody seems to know. It's the same issue that dogs the property where Ocean Club once stood, and where wreckage now sits -- a blight on the Cupecoy area.

You may remember that Ocean Club, built largely out of wood, was obliterated by hurricane Irma four years ago and that its developer, Eric Loor, has never succinctly communicated with his timeshare owners about redevelopment.

But that's another story -- covered here a few weeks ago and shown in our [Archives](#), updated this past weekend.

As we have for many years, we will continue to keep you informed about any future redevelopment efforts in these areas and in others.

22. How To Protect Yourself from the Delta Variant

Although new information is learned every day about the behavior of the Covid 19 Delta variant, nonetheless much is already known.

First, the Delta variant is very highly contagious Δ much more so than the original Covid 19. In fact, CDC officials are now saying that Delta is as contagious as the common cold, which is pervasive.

Second, wearing masks works to prevent many virus infections including Covid 19. No vaccines are 100% effective and no mask is 100% effective. But the overarching, important point about wearing masks and becoming vaccinated is that doing both, as you did during what was previously believed to have been the height of the Pandemic, helps prevent you from catching Covid 19 or its current variants but if you do catch them, it promises (and delivers) a nearly ironclad guarantee that you will either be asymptomatic or have relatively minor symptoms, such as those of the common cold or in some cases flu-like symptoms. People who have been vaccinated except in extremely rare circumstances do not wind up being hospitalized where they may become statistics.

So the bottom line about protecting yourself from the Delta variant is simply continue to wear your mask as you did during the height of the Pandemic Δ and get vaccinated to protect yourself from the worst effects of this potentially deadly variant.

Many hundreds of millions of people around the world have already been vaccinated and they are faring very well during this latest wave of Covid 19 infections. Unvaccinated people who are getting sick daily by the tens of thousands and they are clogging hospitals unnecessarily.

Working together, we can stop the Pandemic and help prevent further mutations by simply doing what we've been told to do by experts at the CDC and elsewhere. Let the facts guide you concerning Covid. We are in a new Pandemic of the unvaccinated.

Why do we publish this in SXM Weekly News? So you can stay well and return to the island. But we also want our many readers on the island to understand that the Delta variant is now global and is fueling illness among the unvaccinated everywhere. All of us working together can stop it and now you know how.

23. Why Buy a Timeshare? It's Not an Investment...

A timeshare is not an investment. It's not property that will with certainty appreciate over time and have a higher resale value when you're ready to move on to something else.

What it is is a remarkably convenient way for people who love to vacation on the same island each year to do so, to have and use their own "home away from home."

Timeshare owners usually get the same unit in the same building every year, and they can depend on seeing the same neighbors every year and enjoy the resort's restaurants, beach, pools, and more. Timeshare owners make lifelong friends at the property, including many people who work there and who will warmly welcome you back when you return with heartfelt smiles and affection.

As a timeshare owner, you generally buy the right to use the property, not an actual physical ownership of it. It's a tremendous convenience because you don't have to search every year for a place that is reasonably priced and meets your needs; [your timeshare is it](#). No worries.

Timesharing isn't perfect, of course. If you like the developer who created your timeshare and that developer sells to someone else, the subsequent owner is required by law to continue your timeshare investment. But the law doesn't always work, as was the case in the Caravanserai debacle.



Nonetheless, there are many timeshare resorts on SXM where the developers have proved themselves to be fiercely independent and dedicated to the happiness of their timeshare owners. Among the best timeshares on the island, in no special order, are Simpson Bay Resort, Belair Beach Hotel, Divi Little Bay Beach Resort, Oyster Bay Beach Resort, the Royal Islander resorts, and others. Most offer multiple restaurants and shops, a genuinely caring and attentive group of employees, and that real devotion to customer satisfaction.

Got more questions about timesharing? Thousands of timeshare owners are members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), so don't hesitate to join that group and ask them what they think of timesharing. You'll get an interesting cross-section of opinions.

24. The Quixotic, Fascinating Life of Mary Pomeroy (The "Mary" of Mary's Boon)

If you've ever sat on the right side of an aircraft landing in SXM, you have seen Mary's Boon Beach Resort out your window. Although it was completely redone inside and out after hurricane Irma, it's the property that Mary Pomeroy put on the map decades ago.

She is probably the single most fascinating person who has ever commanded a beach resort here in SXM. We urge you to Google her, and learn about her life here and also on the neighboring island of Nevis, less than half an hour away by Winair flight.

You'll learn about rumors that she was a spy; that she was involved in things that some governments took offense to; why she was thrown off at least one island; and her last (possibly) misadventure piloting her own airplane. You'll also learn about the honor bar she ran at Mary's Boon   and why Mary's Boon is called Mary's Boon....





Learn much more about Mary Pomeroy [here](#).

25. Cow Runs Away With Woman's Bra (No, Really)

We cannot say for sure where exactly it happened, though we think it was right here in St. Maarten.

A herd of cows was apparently wandering. Cows are curious animals. If you go to a pasture and yell at them, chances are they will stare at you.

Years ago we saw one cow stick her head into a large white pail to sip some water in the bottom. When the cow finished, she put her head up and the pail was stuck around her ears. She was clearly terrified and started making a lot of noise and bounding around to get the thing off. All the cows around her simply stood and stared. Eventually she succeeded, but was lucky she didn't slam into a tree in the process.

Regarding **The Case of the Bra-Stealing Cow**, a video shot somewhere in this area showed a group of cows walking toward the photographer. One of them had clearly come from someone's yard, where her right horn had snagged a bra from a clothesline   or something. Oblivious, she continued sauntering with the bra hanging from her right horn   and the video captured the event for eternity. You can see it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Just use the site search capability for "cow". .

26. SPIGA Honored by Selection to Top 10% of World's

Restaurants

TripAdvisor Travelers Choice has officially recognized SPIGA Restaurant in Grand Case, a multi-award winning restaurant already (including our Everything SXM culinary Award of Excellence), as among the top 10% of all restaurants on the planet -- a distinction sought by many but achieved by few. For much more on Spiga, see www.spiga-sxm.com.

Congrats to our long-time friends Lara & Ciro Russo.

27. Restaurant of the Week: Mama Pizza

Desmond and Stephanie Culbert and their talented staffs have something here that most fans of pizza don't even know about: Mama Pizza in Porto Cupecoy and Oyster Pond is a full-fledged Italian restaurant disguised as a pizza joint.

The pizzas are big, loaded with toppings, perfectly prepared, reasonably priced, and downright delicious. But once you get accustomed to the pizza, you need to expand your horizons and try some of the other things on their menus ♦♦♦ including fresh fish served "from the boat to your table" (they cook it to your liking, of course).

Like most people, I started out there enjoying the pizza ♦♦♦ not initially knowing that much else was offered. But much else *is* offered, and Desmond is an accomplished chef with years of experience and a palette of authentic recipes he brought from Europe. Come and let him expand for you the spectrum of Italian restaurants you may be used to.

Of course, you can get all of the traditional Italian dishes to which you are accustomed. But in addition, you'll find many other dishes that leverage all the deliciousness you would expect from both Caribbean locations where there is an ocean of culinary possibilities. And yes, of course there are lots of selections that are friendly to vegetarian diets.

This past year, both Mama Pizza locations received our culinary Award of Excellence. The location in Porto Cupecoy is right on the Plaza near the Porto Cupecoy Yacht Basin at the northern end of Simpson Bay lagoon. The Oyster Pond location in the center of that village near the big eight-room Villa Vijoux has a beautiful view of the tropical Atlantic with St. Barth in the distance.

What matters more than the views of the area is that the most scenic things at both Mama Pizza restaurants will be the dishes this restaurant offers: pure deliciousness. Try one or both of these fine restaurants during your next visit.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 8/2/21) Big, outstanding pizza, and sizable portions plus reasonable prices on numerous other delicious Italian specialties. They also have a number of fresh fish entrees you should not miss. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, and on the main drag through Oyster Pond, French side. <https://www.facebook.com/Mamapizzaisthebest>

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 (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 Matin (R/M is a breakfast/lunch restaurant). Outstanding dinners in Jai's, a fun new contemporary Indian fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, top-notch delicious selections spanning a wide spectrum of flavors, aromas, and textures. You gotta try this place! Highly recommended.

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.maribistrot.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 Sushiiitto) (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.

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.

28. Key Differences Between SkyMed Short-Term & Annual Memberships

Many people who buy SkyMed memberships first request short-term protection. Is that the best solution for most people? That's a decision you have to make, but before you do, we wanted to give you a little information about SkyMed's types of memberships so you can get a better feel for exactly what is offered.

First, short-term memberships are available only for a specific defined short term. They protect you with SkyMed Takes You Home® membership that applies throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Short-term protection cannot be upgraded or renewed since you buy it for specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for any benefits. When you want protection for a future trip, you must make a separate application for it. It is economical if you seldom travel and if you take brief trips. The cost is \$9/day per person, or a maximum of \$15 a day per family (parents and kids).

We always tell people who are 50 or over about the most important advantages of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. We feel the single most important benefit is that SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health. Details are in SkyMed's Member Services Agreement. We currently have members who are still traveling and are in their upper 80s and 90s.

The cost of annual memberships per family ♦Δ♦ far more economical than the \$15/day per family for short-term coverage -- is only about \$1.35/day total. Multiyear memberships are even less expensive and have more features; contact me and I can send you full information about features of each type of SkyMed membership. Ultimate memberships protect you worldwide. I can answer all your questions by phone in a matter of minutes, and we can also conveniently take your application by phone. Phone us any day at 508-747-8281 during daily business hours, 9am to 8pm. That's a direct line to Jeff Berger's office.

29. 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.

30. 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♦Δ.

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."

31. 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.

32. 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](#).

33. 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.

34. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit [everything.sxm.com](#) and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

35. 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 5 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

36. 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.

37. 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](#)

38. 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 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.

39. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 8/2/21)

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.**

BrightPath Real Estate (new)

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>

40Weeks (new)

Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 8/2/21

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.

40. 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?>

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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)

8/2/21 #V4-1308 8/1 5:00 am EDT | [Terms of use](#) |

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