

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/22/21: *Black Friday Begins*** for Our Island Discount Program; Hurricane Season Ending; You May be Flying on a 737 MAX to SXM; Latest on the Caravanserai Debacle; OBBR's New Bistro / Market; CDC Improves SXM's Rating to Level 3; Front Street Fixup; French Side Update; Blvd. de Grand Case Repaving; Alice's Restaurant; IZI on Thanksgiving; [Issue #1322 -- 43 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1322 ---- Monday, Nov. 22, 2021
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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Important Note:

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

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 360,000 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



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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In This Issue: 43 News Stories

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://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 1/21/2022 1/28/2022 Week 3 **Royal Palm Beach Resort 2 Bedroom 2 Full Bath Oceanfront Condo, Completely Remodeled 2021**, living room w/sleeper sofa, full kitchen w/granite counter tops, dining area, cable TV in living room and each bedroom, breathtaking views from master bedroom, living room & balcony. Resort faces west for beautiful sunsets. Unit is on 3rd floor, Week 2 & 4 also available same unit, & sleeps six. Onsite restaurant and many more within walking distance. A supermarket is also located within walking distance. Activity desk to book your island excursions, boat trips, jet skis, scuba diving, snorkeling, etc. \$50 timeshare tax upon check-in. \$2,300 per week David 914-588-1897 djpartelow@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/2/2022 1/9/2022 week 1 **Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Beaumontia building, fixed and deeded week, weeks 2,3,& 4 also available, Sunday to Sunday,one bedroom sleeps four, third floor oceanview.** Highly discounted from Resort resale. 8,000 8152360642 cubsgo100@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/jeffbergerseverythingsxmnewegroup>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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15. *Huge SkyMed Sale Must End 12/31:*****

**Beat The SkyMed Price Increase Because...
SkyMed Never Does Sales
-- Except Right Now:**

Up to 21 Free Weeks added with new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases!

THIS WEEK'S TOP ISLAND NEWS:

16. BLACK FRIDAY SALE BEGINS NOW!

BEAT THE 2022 PRICE INCREASE BY BUYING NOW!

Join Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Today:

It Funds SXM Weekly News & Lots More!

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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. Hurricane Season Quietly Moving Toward the Finish Line of a Busy Year

Hurricane season does not officially end until November 30, but ever since hurricane Wanda formed late last month after pummeling Cape Cod and nearby Southeastern Massachusetts, the tropics have remained quiet.

Tropical Outlooks posted by the National Hurricane Center continue to say that no tropical development is expected for the next five days. Although the people here are keeping a wary eye on weather in this region and beyond, they are looking forward to November 30 as much as anyone else in the Caribbean.

Wanda was the final name in the list of hurricane names preselected for 2021. Once that name had been used, the National Hurricane Center issued a supplemental list of names in case there are more storms — but fortunately none of those names has as yet been used.

Hurricanes can form during December, after the season officially ends, but hopefully that won't happen. We and our

partners at Crown Weather will be keeping a close eye on the tropics and will report any developments that you should know about in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). They will also be reported in the hurricane center/weather center in our main site, www.everythingsxm.com

2. 737 Max Flying More Flights to SXM: Not to Worry

Passengers on flights aboard multiple airlines are receiving notifications that the airlines are making equipment changes — using bigger planes to fly more passengers to SXM.

Last week, a passenger on an AA flight posted that American had notified them that the flight was being changed to a Boeing 737 Max aircraft — the same type of plane that was returned to the sky several months ago after being grounded for about two years thanks to a software problem that caused two crashes killing 346 people. Some passengers instantly reacted saying they didn't want to fly on the MAX and were going to ask AA to change flights or would get rid of their AA flights and switch to another airline.

The 737 Max at this point has probably received more scrutiny than all other passenger aircraft in the history of aviation. Jackson McFarland, a commercial pilot with a global airline who has flown the 737 and a variety of other aircraft for years and who is a Moderator in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), had this reassuring observation about the 737 Max, responding to passenger comments about changing flights or switching airlines: "...**absolutely no reason to do that. The MAX is the most heavily scrutinized aircraft in the world right now, flown by the most capable pilots in the world. You have absolutely nothing to worry about.**"

3. Winair Gets Best Caribbean Airline Award from Caribbean Journal

Readers of *Caribbean Journal* have named Winair, the St. Maarten-based airline, the best Caribbean airline. An article in the *SXM Daily Herald* noted, "WINAIR has overcome Hurricane Irma, the COVID-19 pandemic and continues efforts to serve the region, its people and visiting tourists. As we rebuild our network and company we must thank our entire staff, who have endured many challenges and sacrifices," stated Michael Cleaver, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of WINAIR. The article noted that "WINAIR will continue to provide and increase its services from Princess Juliana International Airport in St. Maarten post-COVID-19."

Working a couple of years ago for Fodor's when compiling the latest issue of Fodor's *Essential Caribbean* magazine, we used Winair to fly to both St. Barth and to St. Eustatius, two of the four islands we wrote about for *Essential Caribbean*. The flights were on time, comfortable, quick, and dependable — and we expect to fly the airline again soon. We highly recommend Winair for trips to nearby islands and islands farther away throughout their Caribbean route system.

Here is [more information](#) about the growth that Winair is currently undergoing.

4. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements" Answers All Your SXM Travel Questions

Our completely new Guide to Entry Requirements — all new and completely different from the first edition — simplifies SXM Entry Requirements to make it easier for our readers to understand exactly what the island is looking for and to successfully navigate the electronic health authorization system EHAS website, through which visitors to SXM apply for the required preapproval.

To download the new second edition of our Guide to Entry Requirements, *which is free*, go to the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); you can get there [through this link](#) if you are a Facebook member. Otherwise, Facebook will prompt you to join, which is free. To join our group, answer the simple vetting questions. Once you go to the files area, search for Entry and you'll be able to download the PDF of our new second edition Guide to Entry Requirements -- or just [go here](#).

*We always urge everyone to download the **Guide to Entry Requirements** directly from our files area, since that area enables you to ensure that you are downloading the latest available version.* We do expect the Dutch side government to make more changes as the Covid Pandemic hopefully continues to wane.

WEATHER:

5. Stormy Sunday After T-Day, Cold/Snowy December May be Coming to The USA

Next Sunday, November 27, will be one of the busiest travel days of the year for America's airlines; it's when most passengers return home after Thanksgiving trips. Weather may be a factor affecting airline performance, but you can help make things smoother from other perspectives...

According to Jackson McFarland, a captain for a global US airline, "Passenger numbers are still expected to be near or at record numbers. We broke our post-pandemic daily passenger total on the 14th (523k). Expect things to be fairly crazy Saturday afternoon through Monday morning. Folks need to be patient and give themselves extra time. There was also the looming TSA employee vax mandate, but it appears to be on hold per the court ruling."

It's impossible to know at this point how exactly holiday travel will be impacted by winter storms -- if at all. However, late-week reports published on CNN indicated that up to three storms could affect air travel during this holiday week. Everyone here in SXM expects the island to be packed during Thanksgiving week, and the airport to be bustling both before and after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Whatever travel you're doing this week, we wish you a safe, happy Thanksgiving, whether you are coping with holiday travel and weather in the US or enjoying Thanksgiving right here in SXM.

We'll talk more about December weather in North America after the Thanksgiving holiday in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) -- and right here.

6. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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.*

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**

Etc.

7. 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 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) any weekday. Thanks..

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc

8. Caravanserai Debacle: Alegria to Get \$267K Water Rights Pmt from SXM; What It Should Do With The Money...

After buying Caravanserai resort out of bankruptcy several years ago, US credit card magnate Ray Sidhom sent an email to Caravanserai timeshare owners telling them their timeshare ownerships were null and void and their investments in Caravanserai were kaput. That move has been in the courts ever since.

Mr. Sidhom then changed the name of the property to Alegria resort and coined the tagline, "the place of happiness," a particularly poignant choice considering the pain his cancellation of thousands of timeshare ownerships had inflicted on former Caravanserai timeshare owners.

The years since have been strewn with court cases brought by Mr. Sidhom and his associates, virtually all of which cases were lost by Mr. Sidhom. His most recent moves were to tear down all of the incomplete timeshare construction that was on the property. Even last Saturday late at night, heavy equipment was in use on the property breaking down demolished reinforced concrete to be loaded into box trucks carrying it away.

We have frequently been poking around in the area and have noticed a fair number of people at Sunset Beach/Maho beach watching planes, but we have seen hardly any tourists in the again-renamed property. Perhaps that's because of the Covid Pandemic, or it still being low season, but it could also be due to the fact that wherever people look for information about that property, they discover what was done to Caravanserai timeshare owners...

Perhaps finally deciding that "the place of happiness" tagline and the Alegria name — easily confused with that of an allergy medication. — Mr. Sidhom dropped both and has yet again renamed the property, this time calling it a name previously used by a whaling ship....

In any case, for either Alegria or the newly renamed property, Mr. Sidhom initially wanted to build something of a tower near the main entrance to the property. We shot pictures of the artist's concept for that tower a few years back and asked the airport whether it had approved that structure. It had not, but it said that a tower at that location would be a non-starter - an unacceptable potential obstruction for approaching air traffic.

Mr. Sidhom also wanted to build yachting facilities on top of coral in the ocean adjacent to the property, building in an area that has been repeatedly pummeled by hurricanes over several decades. It appears that that idea also has so far gone nowhere.

He also wanted water rights to build a Dolphinarium in the area of Burgeaux Bay, adjacent to the Beacon Hill area

behind his property, a request which is still unresolved.

The government has been slow to render decisions regarding water rights and as a result, the court says the government owes Alegria about \$267,000. (It's complicated; this is a simplification...)

If the Alegria people — who are also the people involved with the new property and with demolition of the buildings in which timeshare owners had paid for many of their timeshare condominiums — choose to do so, they could use the full \$267,000 to start reimbursing the timeshare owners for the property they had declared "null and void" — and add to it millions more to make up for the money lost by timeshare owners at Caravanseraï when their ownership assets rights were taken from them by Mr. Sidhom.

We will keep you posted on what happens with this unending story.

9. Oyster Bay Beach Resort Opens Veranda Market / Bistro

On the site of the former Beau-Beau's at Oyster Bay Beach Resort on Dawn Beach, the all-new Veranda Market/Bistro has opened.

The Veranda Market is the largest grocery store in the Oyster Pond community, offering an extensive selection of kitchen staples, coffee, wine, and spirits, gourmet treats, as well as specialty meats and fish.

Since all Oyster Bay Beach Resort units have kitchens or kitchenettes, the new market is anticipated to be a big benefit for guests. The onsite grocery will eliminate the need for a trip to Philipsburg — currently, the closest market.

"We expect the grocery market to be very popular with our guests, as well as the locals seeking an upscale, affordable shopping experience," notes OBBR Managing Director Mike Dolente.

The Bistro's full kitchen offers lighter fare including fresh salads, made-to-order sandwiches, pizza, selections from the grill, rotisserie chicken, and fresh food from the market. A newly constructed outdoor bar will serve frozen cocktails, best-selling beers, wines and liquors, as well as full food service. The Bistro is open daily enabling OBBR guests to eat-in or take-out. "The Veranda Market and Bistro will give OBBR guests and local residents more choices when it comes to delicious, affordable meals and top-quality grocery shopping," added Dolente.

10. Hundreds of Timeshare Condos Available for Rental / Sale Directly from Timeshare Owners

Our main [Everything SXM site](#) offers hundreds of timeshares for rent and for sale on the site. They're offered exclusively by members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program** who pay no posting fees or commissions -- so prices are usually excellent. Check it out.

11. Full-Ownership 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.

12. 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*.

13. 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 package 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

14. NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates - Updated Nov. 8, 2021

We are now working to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, car rentals, 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. We hope to complete the upgrade during the first quarter of 2022.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#). Please see the next section.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

15. ***Huge SkyMed Sale Must End 12/31:***

Beat the Coming SkyMed Price Increase Because...
SKYMED NEVER DOES SALES -- EXCEPT RIGHT NOW:

Up to 21 Free Weeks added to new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases!

- **WHAT IS SKYMED?**

SkyMed is a medical evacuation membership company. "SkyMed Takes You Home" when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when traveling anywhere throughout the USA, Canada, all the nations of the Caribbean, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. Global protection is also available. SkyMed members pay nothing for SkyMed-arranged medical evacuation flights that would cost non-SkyMed members \$35,000 and up – payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that? Of course, you must get your SkyMed membership before you need it – just like fire insurance.

LOW GROUP PRICING:

All of the SkyMed memberships we sell go to either members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, to members of our online SXM groups, or to readers of SXM Weekly News. The prices we charge for all multiyear Ultimate memberships are substantially less than the retail prices you will see online from SkyMed's website. Call or email us (contact info below) for details on all of our major-league savings on SkyMed Ultimate multi-year membership prices.

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 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) 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 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) 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 EST at 508-591-3483 (new number, where you can also text us) 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

When and Where 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.

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 — 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 508-591-3483 (a new number) during daily business hours, 9am to 8pm. That's a direct line to Jeff Berger's office.

- [SkyMed Frequently Asked Questions / FAQ](#)

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp, 721-588-4188 (through WhatsApp ONLY), or use our new office line, 508-591-3483. You can also send texts to that 508 line and leave voice messages. Please include your phone number, time zone, callback number, and email address.

--Jeff Berger

16.

BLACK FRIDAY SALE BEGINS NOW:

Join or Renew Your Membership in Our *JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program* Today; Great *Last-Chance* Sale Prices & You'll Beat The 1/1/22 Price Increase!

Our biggest sale of the year -- now better than ever since it precedes a price increase on multiyear memberships coming 1/1/22 -- is now underway. It offers pricing that will not be back... take advantage of these great BLACK FRIDAY OFFERS before they disappear, soon!

What's In It For You:

All multiyear memberships bought starting 11/21/21 receive one full year of membership in addition to what's stated on the site. **Want two full years? Our LONGEST DURATION multiyear membership offers TWO FULL YEARS EXTRA, on us, through the end of the sale (date to be announced). BUY NOW, THIS SALE WON'T LAST FOREVER and can end any time. And because of the looming price increase, these values will soon be gone forever....**

To sign up, please visit our main site, everythingxsm.com, and click the page curl at the top of the home page. That takes you to where you can join, helping us continue to produce *SXM Weekly News* ... continue to organize and deliver our complete Weather Center / Hurricane Center on our main site, everythingxsm.com ... and continue to expand our JMB Website Supporters benefits significantly in efforts already underway.

Please don't put it off... we do ask you to join (or renew, if you're already a JMB member) today. Thank you.... Please allow several days for processing your new membership or renewal / reinstatement.

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

17. US CDC Improves SXM Rating to Level 3 from Level 4

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has finally recognized the marked decrease in Covid 19 cases across SXM, and has changed its rating of the safety of the island from level 4 to level 3, a much more desirable level.

18. Front Street Road/Sidewalk Repairs Finally Coming

A year or two ago, the Dutch side government said that it was going to fix the moguls that have appeared on Front Street, downtown Philipsburg's main thoroughfare. This year, it looks like that project is actually going to happen according to downtown merchants with whom we spoke.

Although the holidays are not a perfect time for road repairs, nonetheless the project is overdue and completing it during the holidays is probably better than waiting until the heart of high season begins in a few weeks.

We've heard that the current cobblestones will be replaced with blacktop, yielding a smooth surface that will be much easier for most people to walk on — especially those wearing high heels and people in wheelchairs. The sidewalks are also supposed to be upgraded.

The project is supposed to take roughly 6 weeks to complete and is to be finished close to year's end.

19. Thanksgiving Is a Big Deal on SXM...

Although as we've mentioned before Thanksgiving isn't a holiday celebrated in SXM, nonetheless it is a big deal here since hordes of sun-seeking American tourists descend on the island every year to enjoy the holiday. They also enjoy traditional Thanksgiving dinners with all the fixings and spend some time defrosting before winter fully descends on North America.

It's also big for SXM because sales are underway across the island particularly for Front Street jewelry stores (think holiday gifts) and Front Street electronics stores (think more holiday gifts like high-end cameras). More on that is in another story in this Section.

If you haven't done so already and are looking for Thanksgiving dinner, contact your favorite SXM restaurants now to see if reservations are still available. If you're already on the island, restaurant advertising should be appearing in today's *Daily Herald* with all the details on holiday dinners, though at this point you may not have an ideal choice of a dining time. Many restaurants start serving Thanksgiving dinners at around 11:30 AM and don't stop until late at night or when the turkeys run out, whichever happens first.

See another story below for much more information on jewelry shopping and electronic shopping here on SXM.

20. Island 92's Annual Thanksgiving Show Runs 7:30am - Noon, then "Alice's Restaurant"

Many visitors to SXM — and of course many Thanksgiving travelers everywhere — look forward to hearing Arlo Guthrie's traditional Thanksgiving song Alice's Restaurant at noon on Thanksgiving day.

Island92 radio is accommodating with special Thanksgiving programming starting at 7:30 AM Thanksgiving day and concluding at noon with the full playing of Alice's Restaurant.

If you won't be available at noon to hear Alice's Restaurant, then Google Alice's Restaurant on your phone or computer: you'll find a number of versions which you can play to your hearts content throughout Thanksgiving day.

Or... just [click this](#).

21. "IZI" Open on Thanksgiving With Its Full Regular Menu

For the many people who think turkeys ought to stay in the woods and not grace anybody's tables, David Foini's Izi Ristorante Italiano will have its full traditional Italian menu — and no turkey — from its opening at 5 PM on Thursday until closing. IZI is our restaurant of the week this week, so see lots more about the restaurant — a Simpson Bay landmark — in that story, below.

22. Lots of Megayachts, Private Jets Start Arriving for Thanksgiving

Over the last few days, significant numbers of megayachts have started arriving here in SXM for Thanksgiving week. Outside of the Heineken Regatta, Thanksgiving week and Christmas/New Year's are two of the busiest times of the year here.

Thousands of passengers passed through what was described as a "chaotic" Saturday-before-Thanksgiving at SXM Airport Saturday as well, on one of the busiest days of the year.

After today, dozens of private jets will be bringing many more visitors to SXM, including numbers that will board owned or rented megayachts or who will fly over to St. Barth to spend the holiday there. SXM is the major connecting hub for flights on Winair between SXM and St. Barth. A separate story on Winair is in Section 1.

23. Black Friday Alive & Well at SXM Jewelry & Electronics Stores

If you're looking for gifts of jewelry or high-end electronics/cameras, Philipsburg, the Dutch side capital, is the place to go — and Front Street is where everything is. Parking information was recently published in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), giving you several alternatives for downtown parking. Once you've parked, head to Front Street and traverse it from the head of town (the East end) to the West End, where the big new Rima Beachwear store is.

The best jewelry stores are in our **Sponsors list** below in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*.

For electronics and particularly cameras, Klass Electronics offers excellent pricing and very good service (we've use them several times). For jewelry, you can't go wrong with any of the fine companies mentioned in our Sponsors list below. *Bear in mind that all of these companies have websites enabling you to order and get delivery even if you're not on the island now.*

Regarding electronics: in most cases, high-end electronics/cameras include US Warranties which is very important. Make sure that what you're buying is covered by a US warranty -- ask to see the warranty from the box before buying.

24. Lots of Upgrades Make SXM Jewelry Stores Even More Inviting

Looking into jewelry stores from Front Street we've noticed more upgrades and redesigning then we've seen in some time, as the stores prepare for a normally busy high season in the months ahead -- for the first time since before Irma.

We especially noted significant changes at Zhaveri Luxury just west of the center of town: don't miss their new look, but be sure to peruse a number of the stores shown in our Sponsor list below — all fine, reputable companies that can fulfill all your needs for jewelry for the family, fine watches, and much more.

25. Grand Case Boulevard Repaved as far North as La Pressoir

A few years ago, the French side announced that it would be repaving Boulevard de Grand Case in the town that has been referred to in the past as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean. That was welcome news, since the Boulevard had become an obstacle course due to hurricane Irma and normal wear and tear.

One would have expected that the process would have been completed during the winter following the announcement, but that was at least two years ago and it still isn't finished. The good news: repaving has been completed from southern end near Rainbow all the way north to near the second parking area at Le Pressoir. North of there, the road is a mess until it ends at Spiga; the northern road has been repaved all the way to the Grand Case airport, and also in front of Spiga Restaurant and the Tijen Parfumerie it's in excellent shape.

By the way, those two places — **Tijen Parfumerie** and **Spiga Restaurant** should be regarded as the two top highlights of any visit to Grand Case. Tijen is a one-of-a-kind experience where you can make an appointment to create your own perfume or cologne (men or women) and take it home with you, and you could even do that process virtually, online, with a moneyback guarantee. And **Spiga** is the multi-award-winning fine dining Italian restaurant that we've been raving about for years.

26. French Side Status Update

Although there seems to be significant progress on ameliorating or hopefully solving some of the issues that some French side dissidents have been demonstrating about, not everyone is overjoyed about the progress — a normal state of affairs in political negotiations. Nonetheless, traffic now seems to be flowing normally through French quarter, the main route north from the Dutch side to the French side to get to Orient beach. Out of an abundance of caution, some people are still going to Orient by way of the Causeway and travel through Marigot, which is wide open.

We will continue to report on the French side status. Travel through Sandy Ground just west of Marigot is still not advised in either direction. To get to Nettle Bay from the Dutch side, go through Mullet Bay and Cupecoy into the lowlands, after which you will find Nettle Bay.

27. Euro / Dollar Exchange Rates

Although the currency on the Dutch side is the Antillean guilder, the dollar is widely accepted everywhere and the value of the Antillean guilder is pegged at about 1.8 guilders to the US dollar. It doesn't vary.

The French side uses the euro, which does vary. During the early part of our current trip, the exchange rate was \$1.15 for one euro; now it is \$1.10 for one Euro, a better rate. We are giving you the rates used at the Super U supermarkets; the rates at other individual stores may vary.

28. Russell Clark's SXM-Focused Third Novel, "Living in the Islands" - A Great Beach Read

by Ilene Berger

Living in the Islands, the third book in a series by author Russell Clark, is now out.

In the first book in this series, *Escape to the Islands*, I couldn't put the book down. Sitting and reading it at home in Massachusetts during a cold and rainy day, it hit the spot bringing back great memories of our favorite places to eat and shop in SXM. As soon as I finished, out came the second book in the series — *Return to the Islands* — which I finished reading quickly, leaving me yearning for more.

The last thing I expected was book 3. As Jeff and I were getting ready for our winter trip to SXM, I put all my work on hold, sat down it was so excited to see all of my "old friends" from the first novels in the series again in this latest novel in Mr. Clark's series.

The way to read all the books in this series is to sit in a comfortable chair in a warm room, get yourself an island drink, put on a straw hat and head out to Dany's Cupecoy Beach Bar or to Orient beach — in your mind if not in reality — and while reading, plan your next meet up with great friends that you see every year when you return to the island.

While reading the novel, as the characters enjoy dinner at Vesna Taverna, or the new Toppers at the carousel, you will be "teletransported" to the sounds of the restaurants, the aromas of what you enjoy there, or the sounds of the waves on your favorite beaches: That's what these books do so well for you.

If you read from home, you will enjoy all of the visuals in your mind as you read along. If you do it as beach reading in SXM, you will quickly identify with the characters in the novel: it's that good.

Living in the islands is available on Amazon; [click this link](#).

29. Butterfly Season Continues; More Monarchs, Others Seen

As usual, common great Southern butterflies, which are very light yellow in color, are dominating butterfly season across SXM.

If you want to take some video of them, we suggest you drive north from Marigot on the main road until you see signs for Colombier, then drive down that road briefly until you're in a country area. There, right now at least, there are thousands of butterflies greeting each other, forming little flying groups, and checking out the flowers along the road. Shooting video of them is like shooting video of snowflakes — they move quickly and don't necessarily go where you want them to go. They're still beautiful to watch. We've seen only a few monarchs so far this trip, but hopefully we'll see more..

30. SXM: A Great Place for Photographing Migratory Birds

Many of the seabirds you might see along the shore in the US Northeast or other northern states fly down to the Caribbean in the winter -- even though you don't see them sitting next to you on the plane.

Many of them spend time on small ponds on the island and often stand perfectly still looking for prey — which makes them easy to photograph from a distance, especially if your digital camera has a setting for photographing birds.

Although we don't necessarily know the names of all the birds we photograph, great pictures are easily possible here.

When we post them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), others often know exactly what species they are. We've repeatedly photographed an immature yellow crowned night heron, an American oystercatcher, and many other beautiful birds including great blue herons — which nest close to our home in Southeastern Massachusetts and other parts of the state.

Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) welcomes your SXM pictures including photos you take of birds wintering on the island.

31. Why Our SXM FB Site Is NOT Typical Social Media

Jeff Berger, who usually writes this newsletter and who also runs our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) has said on many occasions that he hates NORMAL social media. "I don't like it at all," he says. "Normal social media enables many people to write whatever they want, regardless of whether it's truthful, accurate, current, friendly, respectful, etc. Most social media sites become a cacophony with a lot of pointless noise and a huge lack of relevant information."

When Jeff formed his [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), he set up Rules of the Road that require that all posts regard SXM; that they follow a "post friendly" mantra; and that they be useful and informative. In fact, he calls the site a *news and information portal* since every day, around-the-clock, the site carries significant news and information as it happens in addition to answering island questions, enabling people to post photos, sharing opinions on restaurants, shopping, and communicating a wealth of other SXM information.

"If people are looking for a site that is a free-for-all for anybody who wants to post anything regardless of its relevance or truthfulness, our site is not the place for them. We also never allow any posts that invite people to do things that are against the law or that can endanger them physically. But for people who believe in our post friendly mantra, our site is the perfect place to ask and answer questions, find out new and significant information about the island, and relate to other people with a similar love for SXM," Jeff notes.

The site also is where hundreds of travel agents from around the world get the answers they need to be able to inform their clients about "Everything SXM." Authors use the site to gather information for novels or articles they're writing. TV producers and writers use the site to map out plans for new programs or New Series (and have for years), and travel writers and other reporters use the site as a reliable source of credible island information with no time-wasting b.s. They would not find such information in a normal social media site, since normal sites tend to waste space with irrelevant posts .

If you're looking for current, accurate SXM information, that's exactly what you get from our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#): it will *not* waste your time.

32. Astra Offers Live Entertainment

Every Sunday from 7 to 10 30: Live jazz, Sax and piano

Every Monday to Thursday 7 to 10 pm Live piano

Upscale waterfront dining on the lagoon with a spectrum of fresh seafood, beef, and much more -- plus glorious appetizers and palate-pleasing homemade desserts.

33. Got Food Allergies? Tell Your Server When Ordering

Before ordering any restaurant, be sure to tell your server if anyone in your party has any food allergies. Servers aren't psychic and they need that information to ensure that your meals are properly prepared and safe for you to eat.

34. Restaurant of the Week: IZI Ristorante Italiano - With David Foini In The Kitchen

For the last several years, chef/restaurateur David Foini of Izi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay has been overseeing things in the kitchen of his restaurant and spending time on the floor ensuring that everything there goes exactly as it supposed to. However David's background is as a chef, painstakingly developing new recipes and perfecting

established recipes to ensure that the product clients visiting his restaurant received is perfectly prepared and presented.

That's why David's many fans and longtime lovers of his food will be happy to learn that these days, David is spending more time in the kitchen actually making many of the dishes that he personally has created from scratch for his restaurant. New chefs from Italy with lots of great experience are being trained and exactly how to prepare his recipes perfectly and David is making sure everything goes perfectly.

From the days when he made pasta at his La Raviolina pasta factory near Marigot to the days when it first opened his original lot gondola restaurant, later moving it to the Atlantis casino in Cupecoy David has always been a very professional chef and also a perfectionist, which explains why his restaurant remains one of the very best on the island and so popular with repeat visitors to the Simpson Bay area.

As it has been since it first opened, Izi Ristorante Italiano is highly recommended as our restaurant of the week. You'll find the restaurant across the street from Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay, located in Paradise Plaza with plenty of free parking.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 11/22/21). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 11/15/21) 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/>

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

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 10/25/21). 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

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 10/11/21) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, now in a beautiful new over-water setting at the Carousel building on Simpson Bay lagoon. Lunch, dinner, and late dining. Karaoke. Co-located with Toppers Rhum Distillery so have some rum (rum is the French spelling) and rum cake when you dine. Open until late night. Sports on TV. From cops to billionaires, everyone loves Toppers.

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 9/27/21). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Highly recommended.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 9/13/21) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 9/7/210: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 8/30/21) 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) (8/30/21) now combined with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location, opposite IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 8/16/21). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

Blue Bitch Bar www.bluebitchbar.com, formerly Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar, is THE bar/restaurant to visit on the Boardwalk in Philipsburg. (featured 8/9/21) Great open-air atmosphere, outdoor dining/drinking, entertainment. Their menu is extensive with excellent food, fun atmosphere, and beautiful ocean views. Located on the beach, at the Boardwalk....

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>

Emilio's: outside Philipsburg (featured 7/19/21) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed.** <https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 7/12/21) Chef-co-owner Ciro Russo & Lara Russo haven't missed a beat here as Spiga has finally reopened. Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed.

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

Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (featured 6/28/21), **Simpson Bay** A 15-second walk to the side of the building from Reveil Marin (R/M is a breakfast/lunch restaurant). Outstanding dinners in Jai's, a fun new contemporary Indian fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, top-notch delicious selections spanning a wide spectrum of flavors, aromas, and textures. You gotta

try this place! Highly recommended.

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.

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/>

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.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our **Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group**. Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

35. Important Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters & SkyMed Sales Inquiries

Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales:

Because of volume, email is not the best way to reach us. Here's what's best: First, a Suggestion: **Get the free WhatsApp app**. It lets you make free phone calls (including video calls) worldwide and send free texts, all for zero cost. It is very widely used around the world.

1. **SkyMed – Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone**: If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message: that is a NEW NUMBER.** (Our old numbers were knocked out by the recent Cape Cod storm and are still funky.)
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters**: Use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application only**. Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL**, since all responses are made by email.

36. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 11/15/21)

Our JMB SXM Web Media Sponsors help make it possible for us to research, write, produce, and email you *SXM Weekly News* every week. They also enable us to spend lots of hours making sure our **Everything SXM Facebook Group** fulfills its mission to be SXM's only authentically managed [by a seasoned journalist] interactive conversational SXM news and information portal on Facebook. And their help makes our JMB Website Supporters members-only Island Parties possible (resuming next year) as well as all the working going into enhancing our Island Discount Program now for its thousands of loyal members. Thank You for patronizing our Sponsors! (JMB Communications is based in Massachusetts, USA).

AMUSEMENTS

Island Pedals Beer Cycle (Philipsburg)

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti

Laura Fisher Saxon

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:
www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

Rumbelly Boat Charters Pleasure boats, motorized and catamaran (new)

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](#)

DUTY-FREE SHOPPING (NEW)

Great Deals on Watches, Bags, Wallets, Sunglasses and Fashion Jewelry:

<https://www.facebook.com/buy.sxm>

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*.

Jennifer's Vacation Villas

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)

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)

Villa En'sea 5 bedroom Villa, overlooking Philipsburg bay (new)

Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Wedding Planners / Wedding Venues

[Fawnette Scott-Angelides - Azure Hotel and Art Studio](#) (Fawnette is a minister and she owns Azure, a venue on beautiful Simpson Bay Beach, where beach weddings are her specialty)

Sint Maarten Marry-Me Destination Weddings (new)

Updated 11/15/21

37. Our SXM News & Information Portal Delivers The Latest SXM News all Week Long

You may not know it, but you can get news and information updates of special interest to SXM tourists all week long through our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). It is a news and information portal disguised as social media; laser focused on SXM news and information and never publishes BS or some of the other things that ordinary social media sites often allow. Our SXM news and information portal, our everything SXM Facebook group, is [here](#).

38. Please: NEVER Take Seashells Home

SXM has strict laws against the removal of large sea shells, particularly conch shells, from the island. Never take shells home — fines are very serious money, and by taking shells you are hurting the island's ability to preserve its environment and protect its marine species.

39. 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](#).

40. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

41. 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.

42. 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 508-591-3483. More info? See [skymed.com/jmb](#) or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

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.

43. 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 11/22/21)

1. **SkyMed – Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone:** If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER.** (Our old numbers were knocked out by the recent Cape Cod storm and are still funky.)
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters:** Use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application only.** Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL,** since all responses are made by email.

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)

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