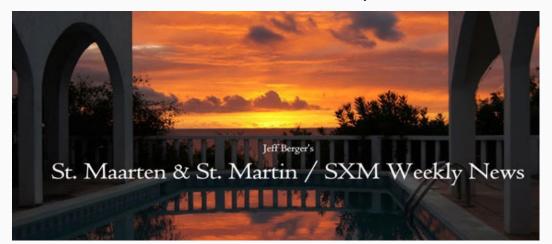
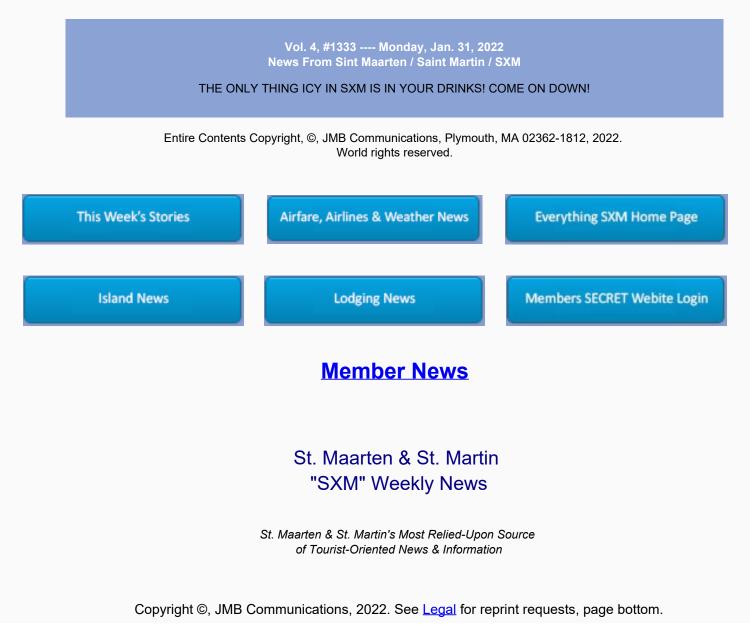
From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/31/22: The Blizzard; False Story Circulating About US Entry Reqts.; French Government Auctions Off Privately Owned French side Property (Our Full Overview); Caribbean Multihull Challenge; SkipJacks; What SkyMed Actually Does & Why It's Indispensable for Travel [Issue #1333 -- 35 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

Can't see this newsletter? Go HERE for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.





From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored <u>send-only</u> email address. For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u> at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

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

<u>Please do stay with us</u> 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



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:

<u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml</u> 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:

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Top Stories in Today's <u>SXM Weekly News</u>:

file:///C/Users/jeff/Documents/JMBSXMWEEKLYNEWS/_SXM%20Weekly%20News/V4_1333Jan312022.html[2/16/2022 3:04:00 PM]

Weather; Getting Here:

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- -- False Story Circulating About US Returning Home Requirements
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- -- Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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- -- Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help
- -- How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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-- Up to 22 Weeks FREE SkyMed Medevac Protection in SkyMed's Huge New '22 Sale -- FOR-REAL LAST CALL: JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program BEAT THE PRICE INCREASE MEMBERSHIP SALE Must End Friday February 4

-- French Government Auctions off Private Property in Orient; Result, Traffic Blockages, Now Cleared

- -- Caribbean Multihull Challenge Set Friday Feb. 4 Through Feb. 6
- -- In Simpson Bay, a Short Walk Takes You to Two Magical Places...
- -- Vote for Your Favorite SXM Businesses in USA Today's "Ten Best of the Caribbean"
- -- Restaurant of the Week: SkipJacks
- -- Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Actually Do?
- -- Vote for Your Favorite SXM Businesses in USA Today's "Ten Best of the Caribbean"
- -- Watch for our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence, Being Distributed Now

-- Parking in Downtown Philipsburg

- -- Award-Winning Simpson Bay Restaurant For Sale
- -- First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits
- -- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors

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In This Issue: 35 News Stories

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

<u>To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else</u> worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u> 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 2/25/2022 3/4/2022 Week 8 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 & 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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml</u>

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/5/2022 2/12/2022 Week 6 **Simpson Bay Resort** 2 Bedroom Unit. One bedroom third floor with connecting stairs to sleep 2 studio. Facing pool. Upper B Building. Week 7 also available in same unit. Studio can be rented separately. \$10,000 per week or BO Phil <u>Cheryl956@aol.com</u>

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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Find us on Facebook

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

"Like" Our All-New "<u>Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM</u>" MeWe Group https://mewe.com/join/jeffbergerseverythingsxmmewegroup

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format): http://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews

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

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

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

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<u>16. Huge SkyMed '22 Sale: Up To 22 Weeks FREE (PLUS Military/First Responder Free Weeks) with New Multiyear SkyMed Purchases ===Only \$1.64/day Gets You Guaranteed Renewable, Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection;</u>

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19. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Actually Do?

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B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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

Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)

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

Visit <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, 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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>. 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. Many Flights Canceled as Blizzard Hits Northeast Hard

Many flights from the Northeast US to SXM were canceled Saturday when one of the worst blizzards in years pummeled the Northeast from New Jersey to down-East Maine.

A number of passengers both coming to SXM and returning home were rescheduled to Sunday or Monday. In New England, hundreds of thousands of people were without power in severe cold conditions.

If you haven't done so already, check directly with your airline to see what rescheduling alternatives they are offering.

2. False Story Circulating About US Returning Home Requirements

As our **Guide to entry Requirements** states, the United States requires American citizens returning from international travel to have a negative Covid test within one day before traveling. Details on how this works are in our guide, which can be accessed through this link.

It in the next few days you hear any news from anyone else about a lengthening of this requirement, according to the CDC that information is incorrect. If this changes, we will hear it from the CDC and publish it through our **Everything SXM Facebook Group** and here in *SXM Weekly News*.

3. Airport Shut Down for An Hour Last Monday Night by a Small Plane Disabled on Runway

A small Beechcraft aircraft became disabled on the runway at SXM Airport a week ago and for some reason was stuck there for about an hour. Three passenger jets were poised to take off but could not because of the Beechcraft, which had to be repaired where it was.

Some approaching aircraft also had to be diverted temporarily. About an hour later, the Beechcraft was fixed and removed, and normal operations resumed. One passenger flight had to be rescheduled for the next day since its crew would have been over its time limit had it been allowed to fly after the repair was completed.

4. Hungry? Lots of Food Available at SXM Airport

If you arrived at SXM Airport hungry and need to grab some food, know that there are a number of concession stands outside the terminal building and more inside which give you a spectrum of selections.. There are also some restaurants nearby offering food you can take to the airport — Vesna Taverna and the Coffee Lounge, for example, both in Simpson Bay and both open early.

5. Where to Get Tested Before Returning Home to the US

In the Files area of our **Everything SXM Facebook Group**, we maintain information about where to get tested before leaving SXM to return to the US. Our File shows you what places are available, what days they are open, and it gives you cost information.

6. What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...

What should you do if your flight is canceled or delayed — as happens fairly often now due to winter weather or omicron related issues?

This recently published article gives you exact answers.

7. Omicron Numbers Continuing Free Fall -- Great News Continues

The omicron numbers from both the French and Dutch sides of the island continue to drop like a rock. The high weeks ago was over 2600 active cases, but that number has dropped to about 700 and should continue its rapid drop.

The vast majority of those cases are the omicron variant of Covid. As usual, people who are unvaccinated are faring worse than those who have been fully vaccinated and boosted.

To return to the US, Americans must be tested, and that is where some omicron cases are discovered -- though those numbers are now low. For more information on what happens to people who test positive, please see our <u>Guide to</u> <u>SXM Entry Requirements</u> and returning home to the US. See story 9.

8. NEWS About the Future of SXM Airport (Short- and Long-Range) Coming Soon

We are currently working on a major story concerning the future of SXM Airport — both short term regarding the restoration efforts currently underway and longer-term, regarding plans to improve the ability of the airport to serve more people throughout the region more quickly.

The article should appear here in *SXM Weekly News* during the next week or two and will be of keen interest to all visitors to SXM — now and for several years in the future. Your friends should be subscribed to *SXM Weekly News* so they don't miss this and other important articles we will be publishing in the weeks and months ahead.

9. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements," Second Edition, 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 SXM's Electronic Health Authorization System EHAS website, through which visitors to SXM apply for the required preapproval. The Guide has been updated to include the new requirements effective January

1, 2022.

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 evolves and hopefully wanes. It was updated again recently, and will continue to be updated as necessary.

WEATHER:

10. 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) <u>Crown Weather Services</u> whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business. 2) **Our "Weather" page** at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> -- 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 <u>www.island92.com</u>. 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: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>

Etc.

11. SkyMed TRAVEL <u>Guarantees</u> 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 <u>https://www.skymedtravel.com/register</u>, 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

12. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Available This Winter

Dozens of new listings of timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale for 2022 have been added to our timeshare sales / rental page in our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com. If you're looking for a place to stay, that's where to find it. All of our listings are from members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program so you deal directly with timeshare owners — there are no middleman or agents or anything else charging commissions. Usually, timeshare owners charge close to their actual annual maintenance fee costs.

Dozens of new entries were posted over the last few days.

13. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

A while ago, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November '18 seminar is available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video here.

Please check this link to <u>BrightPath</u> **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*.

14. 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

15. Reminder: \$100 Jewelry Gift Card Emails Sent to All JMB Website Supporters Members: News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 1/31/22) How To Get Your \$100 Gift Certificate to Caribbean Gems

One of the newest benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership is a \$100 Gift Card from Caribbean Gems. The Gift Card was sent last month by email to all members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**, and will soon be added (for one-time use only) to our members-only passworded "Secret" Website. Details on its use accompany the card.

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 here in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group.** We hope to finish these updates late during Q1, 2022.

JMB Website Supporters currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

Want your own \$100 Gift Certificate to Caribbean Gems? Join JMB Website Supporters and we will send it to you -- just be aware that the current MEMBERSHIP SALE -described below -- <u>must end this Friday, February 4</u>. We will start sending Certificates to new members shortly.

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

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

16. Huge News About the '22 SkyMed Sale: <u>Up To 22 Weeks FREE</u> (PLUS Military/First Responder Free Weeks) with New Multiyear SkyMed Purchases ===Only \$1.64/day Gets You Guaranteed Renewable, Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection

IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED, *NOW* IS THE TIME TO ACT

<u>SkyMed Never Does Sales</u> -- Except Right Now:

<u>Only \$1.64/day - *LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE* -- gets</u> you annual or multiyear SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for your upcoming trips!

Buy it NOW, *BEFORE* you need it -- just like fire insurance. Annual and multiyear memberships are GUARANTEED

RENEWABLE and PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE, too and You'll Get Up To ***22 FREE WEEKS*** added to new SkyMed purchases!

IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED, ACT NOW:

For info see the links below, for answers to questions or to sign up by phone call 508-591-3483 (you can text to that number & leave voicemail 24/7). <u>NOTE: My prices for</u> *multiyear memberships ARE MUCH LESS THAN YOU* <u>WOULD PAY ONLINE</u>.

.....SKYMED'S BEST SALE EVER IS NOW UNDERWAY!.....

For ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS in 2022:

22 FREE weeks added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES* 12 FREE weeks added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES* 22 FREE days added to all new Annual memberships

<u>"Thank YOU for Your Service"</u> Bonus for US & Canadian Military Veterans & FIRST RESPONDERS:

6 FREE months added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES* 3 FREE months added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES*

*What are "Ultimates"? See next story.

<u>17. DETAILS: Only \$1.64/day Gets You Guaranteed Renewable,</u> Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection:

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. <u>SkyMed members pay</u> nothing for SkyMed-arranged medical evacuation flights that would cost non-SkyMed members \$35,000 and up <u>*payable in cash, in advance*</u>. Why risk that? Of course, you must get your SkyMed membership <u>before</u> you need it – just like fire insurance. **You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services** <u>here</u>, and you'll find **Frequently Asked Questions** <u>here</u>.

LOW GROUP PRICING *LOWER THAN THE PRICES ON THE SKYMED WEBSITE*:

All of the SkyMed memberships we sell go to either members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, to members of our various 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 priceguaranteed for life. The price of your membership will not increase if you buy during 2022 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

 HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us ANYTIME 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: <u>http://www.skymed.com/jmb</u>. *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, here's some important info. 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 21 or younger). We always tell people who are 50 or over about the most important advantages of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. 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 now only about \$1.64/day total. Multiyear memberships are also about \$1.64/year and have more features; contact me for full information about features of each type of SkyMed membership. Ultimate memberships protect you worldwide. I can answer all your questions by phone in minutes, and can also take your application by phone (that way I get credit). Phone anytime at 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER). That's a direct line to Jeff Berger

*What is the SkyMed Ultimate?

The Ultimate is SkyMed's best - and least expensive (on a daily cost basis) form of medical evacuation membership. With SkyMed "Takes You Home"® services in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus Global Emergency Travel Services (GETS) almost everywhere else worldwide, the Ultimate is for people who visit Europe, Africa, Asia, and almost anywhere else your wanderlust takes you. It also delivers 18 critically important travel-related services as opposed to 12 with SkyMed annual memberships. You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services including those provided with Ultimate memberships here.

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. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). 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 1/31/22

18. FOR REAL LAST CALL == MIDWINTER SALE FOR OUR JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program EXTENDED DUE TO THE BLIZZARD BUT <u>MUST END FRIDAY FEB. 4</u>: Your membership helps fund *SXM Weekly News*, our Hurricane Center, our SXM Facebook Site, Member Parties (after Covid exits) & Lots More.

====>Join or Renew Your Membership in Our *JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program* Today; Great *Last-Chance* Sale Prices & You'll Beat The 2/4 Price Increase!

Our biggest sale of the year -- now better than ever since it precedes a price increase on multiyear memberships coming Feb. 5 -- is now underway BUT IT MUST END 2/4. It offers pricing that will not be back... take advantage of these great MIDWINTER SALE OFFERS before they disappear, soon!

What's In It For You:

All multiyear memberships bought now through 2/4 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 January 31. BUY NOW, THIS SALE ENDS 2/4. And because of the looming price increase, these values will soon be gone forever....

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

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

19. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Really Do?

We've always said SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured -home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and home where your health insurance works. <u>In</u> recent weeks as many of you have decided to resume traveling, you've asked us for examples of what SkyMed does. Several examples are below.

For answers to questions or to sign up, email me at <u>jeff.berger@skymed.com</u> or call me at 508-591-3483. Open to Americans & Canadians & xPats only. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the last 33 years, SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is available. Cost for family membership is as little as \$1.64/day on annual and multiyear plans. <u>IMPORTANT: Buy directly through me;</u> our pricing for multiyear memberships is much lower than SkyMed's pricing published on the web.

On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain

continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed which arranged and paid for an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works. That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.64/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger 24/7 at 508-591-3483 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.

Anything can happen anywhere: Do it now, BEFORE YOU NEED IT. To learn more, visit <u>www.skymed.com/jmb</u> -- our new SkyMed site, now live. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's online pricing for all multiyear memberships, the BEST memberships for most people age 50 or over. More contact info is above.

Thanks for reading this.

20. French Government Auctions off Private Property Near Orient; Huge Mess for Property Owners; Result, Traffic Blockages, Now Cleared

The situation on the French side of the island that led to roadblocks in various places is highly complex. We will try here to untangle it for you. The situation relates to vast tracts of land in various places on the island that is owned by deed

but not necessarily by title.

The tract we are talking about here extends from the vicinity of the Cadisco gas station not far from Hope Estate to the northern part of the Spring area north of French Quarter on the French side of the island. Hundreds of people live here who have deeded rights to the land passed down through generations -- but they don't necessarily have titles. Also, many of these property owners are descendants of people who have been on SXM since the 1800s or even earlier.

The French side government is not a monolith here — not a single entity. There is the collectivite, which is the local government run by President Daniel Gibbs. There is the Préfet, a single individual who is the representative of the French state. He can pretty much do what he wants with or without interplay with Gibbs.

And then, as if that isn't enough, the French government itself, which has a knack for making decisions regarding the island, often disrespecting both locals and other government entities -- and some of those decisions are often universally unpopular. *This* is the entity that recently decided to auction off property owned by and deeded to the Webster family, across the street from the Cadisco gas station in the Hope Estate area. That gas station, by the way, is also involved in this humongously hot mess.

The Webster family was not allowed to bid in the recent auction of its own property for which it held deeded ownership. The French government decided the auction would not even be held in St. Martin. So the Websters lost their property and the French state pocketed the money. There are hundreds of other parcels of property on the French side that could suffer the same fate, which is why there is such immense angst among so many people on the French side.

In fact, the tract of land we mentioned is bigger than all of downtown Philipsburg and has hundreds of residents who could also wind up losing their land if their deeded ownership has no title. Another twist is that for some of these transfers over many decades, titles were not allowed (by the French government) to be granted for property ownership.

No matter what they do, neither the Webster family nor others who are potential victims of this situation seem to be able to get action by any government entity to fix it. "The Old House," a historic property at the top of the hill before Orient where "AMuseum Naturalis" is sited, is in the same mess -- and in fact has a sign out front reading "Visit Us Before This Property is Stolen" reflecting sentiment common to many area residents.

We wrote last week about a mammoth steamshovel placed in the road near the Cadisco gas station. That was a *defacto* protest about this mess, though the Websters reportedly said they weren't involved. Gendarmes (who are responsive to the Prefet) left it there for a few days, royally screwing up French side traffic near Orient and angering thousands of people -- many of whom were sympathetic locals who nonetheless were not at all pleased by the interruption of commerce. Tourists trying to get to Orient had no idea what was going on and local newspapers didn't help with superficial reporting.

What follows are multiple links to local stories on some of the events noted above. One of those links was a statement by President Gibbs. The address was an opportunity for the French side President to exert himself forcefully into this situation on behalf of the people victimized by it. You can judge whether he was successful when you read his statement.

Here are comments from a French side business person whose identity we are keeping anonymous. "The whole section [of land] by us where the homeowners have no title was actually all recent (relatively speaking). The collectivité bought it, despite the fact that it was in dispute, and that's why no one has title. Lots of the other land has title, deed of sale, etc, but the courts threw out a lot of those things going back to the 1930s.

"The other thing is that the land auction proceeds basically go to the heirs [of the property ownership -Ed.] (after the lawyers and everyone else gets paid), but about 300 heirs all over the world, most with no connection to sxm.

"The fact that the auctions are happening overseas makes it almost impossible for locals to bid since they are not even informed of them. Also, many of the heirs outside of the local families who are having their land stolen have actually sold their own shares of land. No one is going after any of that, just the handful of families who have been keeping and caretaking the land locally for generations."

Here are the articles:

The original story on the biggest tract of land from The Daily Herald.

The story about the <u>deeded property owned by the Webster family being sold at auction overseas</u> by the French government for far less than its value.

President Gibbs statement about what he will do.

21. Caribbean Multihull Challenge Set This Friday 2/4 - 2/6

The fourth edition of the Caribbean Multihull Challenge will take place in the brilliant waters of an island known for great multihull sailing and great hospitality. St Maarten will host its third annual Caribbean Multihull Challenge on February 4-6, 2022.

The Sint Maarten Yacht Club, organizers of this regatta, are acknowledging the rapid growth in all forms of multihulls; and the technological advances that enable newer boats to be uniquely fast, yet safe and comfortable in all kinds of winds. As was in the last two editions; racing in this highly regarded event will be spirited, competitive, and full of fun surprises. All are welcome! For more information see https://www.caribbeanmultihullchallenge.com/.

In a never ending saga of innovation, the coming CMC IV will feature a class of these new arrivals to the shores of Saint Martin. Three Diam 24 Trimarans were shipped from France in a container with actually room for a fourth. With an assembly time of under two hours each, the local owners and crew made quick work of getting these boats ready for sailing and practice well before the first CMC start on the 3rd of February in Simpson Bay in the Dutch side.

The CMC race committee headed by Race Officer and well known SXM sailor Rien Korteknie will create special courses for these boats that with their 1.6 meter shoal draft can also race close to shore in Simpson Bay providing eye candy for beach goers rocking at Karakter and Mary's Boon. Korteknie and his committee will also throw in challenging distance courses giving these skippers the chance to blast through offshore waves under their 37 sq meter gennakers.

According to Alexis De Baucaud, owner of one of the 24's and a Senior Broker for the Multihull Company "this trimaran is spectacular: 10-12 kts steady upwind with 14-15 kts in flat water. 12-18 kts off the wind and just over 20kts under gennaker surfing the big waves offshore. What is perhaps most surprising is how stable and safe she feels with her long outriggers and a very deep centerboard of some 1.70 meters keeping her safe and sea-kindly."

According to Altier...."Three units will compete in the 2021 CMC, and in future editions we plan to add more on the top of this number to create a one design class within the regatta. Then, there will be a possibility for an "easy regatta" which means that any crew of 3 will be able to rent a Diam 24 for the event and take the start line after a few minutes explanations". Before and after the CMC, the Diam 24's will be berthed in Great Bay on pontoons at Bobby's Marina. For the days of the regatta, plans are being discussed to have at least one of the boats dock at the Sint Maarten Yacht Club which will be the headquarters for the 4-day event.

"While the CMC certainly has its share of large and interesting cruising and racing multihulls, the addition of these speedy smaller trimarans adds interest and another dimension to the CMC which is really more than a regatta; but rather a celebration of all things multihull" says Stephen Burzon, Volunteer Director of Marketing for the event.

22. In Simpson Bay, a Short Walk Takes You to Two Magical New Places...

Like fresh-roasted coffee? Like surprises?

Head for the plaza housing Domino's in Simpson Bay and literally next door to Domino's you'll find the Coffee Lounge. New within the last year, Coffee Lounge has way more the just coffee -- but its coffee deserves extra attention. It's fresh roasted in their shops exclusively for Coffee Lounge. There's a large variety of flavors offered hot or iced, plus many teas as well.

We've suggested to owner Seema that she think about calling it "Coffee Lounge & More" since both Coffee Lounges (there's one at the head of town on Front Street in Philipsburg too), also offer many pastries, sandwiches, other drinks, and more. Their Philipsburg location even has high tea every afternoon...

Once you've loaded up on coffee and snacks, walk past Domino's and on the other side you'll see a new business called All in One Place -- the all-new second store has opened. It's tiny but has two aisles chock full if stuff you can use -- dominoes, checkers, bamboo sunning mats, beach toys, greeting cards, puzzles, and hundreds of other items. Bring your own tote bag -- there's a shortage of plastic bags on the island and they're likely to be outlawed here, as they have been in many other places. Their other store is on the right side of the road before the stadium as you head north from Carrefour in Philipsburg toward Emilio's -- and that store is many times bigger than Simpson Bay. Whenever we're in the area we stop at "All in One Place" and we always find things we need.... Do check them out.

23. Vote for Your Favorite SXM Businesses in USA Today's "Ten Best of the Caribbean"

Sail away and vote every day till Feb. 14, winners announced in all 7 categories on Feb. 25. USA TODAY 10BEST

2022 Readers' Choice Travel Awards for the Caribbean. To see all the SXM nominees in all categories, click here.

24. Restaurant of the Week: SkipJack's

SkipJack's restaurant located in the heart of Simpson Bay just south of the drawbridge is one of the island's largest and most popular seafood restaurants.

Setting / Location: Their location was mauled by hurricane Irma and has been built back better with a big new cement deck that's made to last. The view is as gorgeous as ever.

Offerings: SkipJacks sells lots of lobster here at a per-lb. price stated on the sign in front of the restaurant (market price). They sell many types of freshly caught seafood but their biggest claim to fame is their lobsters -- both locally caught spiny Caribbean lobsters and flown-in-fresh live Maine lobsters prepared as you like them. Lots of menu selections. If you like seafood, SkipJack's is a must stop.

Mood: The building has wooden veneers reminiscent of some of the biggest seafood restaurants you'll find in New England -- but here most fish is local, fresh, and delicious.

Summary: Seafood lovers, SkipJacks should be on your list. It's one of SXM's very largest restaurants of any kind. Good service, very good-size portions and the service always comes with a smile. This is the same experienced staff that has served customers here for many years: they're good and the food this busy kitchen turns out is delicious. They're also a winner of our Everything SXM Culinary Award of Excellence. Go...

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

SkipJacks Seafood Grill, Bar, and seafood Market (featured 1/31/22 is one of the largest seafood restaurants on the island, located in a remarkable site overlooking Simpson Bay Lagoon and many megayachts. With many types of fresh fish cooked to order, SkipJack's is best known for lobster, both the local spiny variety and even some flown in from Maine. Pick your own and have it prepared as you like it. Lots of other choices too for all kinds of appetites. Classic attentive service and delicious everything. It's a must.

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <u>https://emilios-sxm.com/</u>. Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sidney are culinary perfectionists, and you will kick yourself if you don't go here early in your trip so you have time to come back. Sunday Brunch is a must but requires reservations as does dinner. Not to be missed.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro <u>www.mariobistrot.com/en/</u> 1/17/22 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have -- here in SXM or anywhere else. *Go.* Phenomenal dining. 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.

The Coffee Lounge, (featured 1/3/22) Simpson Bay next to Domino's and in Philipsburg at the head of town. Great freshly roasted coffees, pastries, and sandwiches. Don't miss it.

Vesna Taverna, <u>www.vesnasxm.com</u> (featured 12/27/21). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

Pineapple Pete, <u>www.pineapplepete.com</u> (featured 12/20/21) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids & their parents.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (12/20/21) now combined with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location, opposite IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay. GREAT sushi rolls and sashimi and much more.

Emilio's: outside Philipsburg (featured 12/6/21) offers extraordinary fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed**. <u>https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/</u>

Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (featured 11/29/21), Simpson Bay Leave your preconceptions behind! A 15second walk to the side of the building from Republic Bank.. Outstanding dinners (and soon lunches a few days weekly) in Jai's, a fun new contemporary fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, phenomenally executed selections spanning a spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and tastes. You gotta try Jai's! Highest recommendation.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, <u>www.izirestaurant.com</u> (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/

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. <u>www.isolaristorante.com</u>

Topper's <u>http://www.sxmtoppers.com/</u> (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 (rhum is the French spelling) and rhum 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, 9/7/2021: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. <u>www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html</u>

Blue Bitch Bar <u>www.bluebitchbar.com</u>, formerly Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar, is THE bar/restaurant to visit on the Boardwalk in Philipsbuirg. (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. <u>https://www.facebook.com/Mamapizzaisthebest</u>

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

<u>Pure Ocean Restaurant</u> at Divi Little Bay Resort, Dutch side (featured 3/1/21) Fine new beachside restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and fine dining dinners. Excellent choices for everyone, innovative menu, beautiful presentation, and downright delicious. Great #Caribbean ambiance on their open-air beachside deck. Attentive service and responsive staff.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, <u>www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant</u> 4/15/19. Just go.... **Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar** (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, <u>www.sailstmaarten.com</u> (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats. **Melange International Grill (**featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

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

25. Watch for our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence, Being Distributed Now

Early every year for the last 10 years, JMB Communications has been distributing its **Everything SXM Awards of Excellence** to superior businesses throughout the French and Dutch sides of the island. We been working on our 2022 awards and will be distributing them over the next few weeks. Once we've distributed all of them, we will show you the list here in *SXM Weekly News* and also in our <u>Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group</u>.

We highly recommend all of these fine establishments.

26. Six-Vacation Giveaway Entries Now Underway; Complete Prize List for "Eight Million Thanks"; Want One?

EverythingSXM.com will be celebrating 8 million visits to its suite of SXM websites by giving away SIX SXM vacations late this coming March.

Want one?

The vacations will be at:

Villa En Sea high on a hill overlooking beautiful Great Bay and downtown Philipsburg;

Colony Manor Golden Daze condo directly on Simpson Bay beach;

Simpson Bay Resort, Marina, & Spa in the heart of Simpson Bay, on its own private beach;

Belair Beach Hotel on its own private beach minutes from Philipsburg;

Divi Little Bay Beach Resort, on its own private beach with a gorgeous multi-level pool and lots of great restaurants

on-site; and

Azure Hotel & Art Studio, a small family-owned hotel on the beach and within walking distance of many fine Simpson Bay restaurants.

In addition, there will be a car rental from **Leisure Car Rental** for the grand prize winner, several dinners for two at top island restaurants (see below), and a \$400 women's or men's watch from **Caribbean Gems** in Philipsburg.

Dinners for two will be at Mario's Bistro; Emilio's Restaurant; Isola Restaurant; Vesna Taverna; Mama Pizza; Movida; IZI Ristorante Italiano and Spiga in Grand Case. All are subject to limitations set by the owner; if you exceed the limit, you are responsible for the excess.

Our **GRAND PRIZE** winner will also appear live on **Island 92 radio with Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin** on his Fresh Air in the Morning Program.

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN AND IF YOU RECEIVE YOUR OWN COPY OF SXM WEEKLY NEWS, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN BUT YOU STILL MUST ENTER. ENTER HERE. If you do NOT subscribe, you must go to sxmweeklynews.com now to subscribe FREE before entering this giveaway. ENTRIES FROM NONSUBSCRIBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN. PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

27. Where to Park in Philipsburg (Revised 12/20/21)

From Rakhee Sakhrani, Royal Jewelers, Philipsburg (Edited 12/20)

Visiting Philipsburg but don't know where to park or there are no spaces available? Take a look at the map for road markings/names posted by Rakhee in our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u>. [Use the Search feature in the group to find her posts; the maps are there.].

I added a few pictures for easy & convenient visuals of the parking spots! There are free & paid areas. It's approximately a 5-7 min walk to front street from these spots!

Free Parking: The Pondfill: Unmarked spots: As you drive into town, you can pull into a spot, it's usually unpaved/dirt/rock area.

Marked free parking spots: There are designated free parking lots on the Pondfill. These are usually full by 11am. If you are an early bird great, otherwise you may have to wait 'til a car pulls out.

New Government bldg free lot: Another free lot, but it's a decent walk to front street. Take the turn by the center roundabout and head toward the white/yellow/green(roof) building.

Paid parking: Center of town: The parking lots is literally in the center of town by the WIB Bank/KFC. This fills up very quickly. **The lot reopened on Monday, December 20, 2021.**

Old Library: This is a new area for paid parking. Very convenient. It is \$2.00 an hour. Easy walk to front street.

Bobby's Marina: This is a little farther down Philipsburg, however it is a great place to park. It's near the grocery store Fairway. Once parked, there is a pathway accessible to the boardwalk via Greenhouse restaurant. Takes you straight to front street. It is a nice scenic walk.

We hope this helps! Don't forget to visit us after you park. Royal Jewelers 44A Front Street (Across from Horizon view hotel)

Thanks Rakhee Sakhrani for this information!

28. Award-Winning Simpson Bay Restaurant For Sale; Pricing Options Offered

VERY WELL KNOWN, AWARD-WINNING SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE. Prime location with on-site parking; all-new kitchen; experienced staff. 100 seats -- indoors and outdoors. Great 6-year lease; motivated owner. TURNKEY OPERATION; SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY.. For information send your name, address, email address, qualifications for buying, and phone number VIA WHATSAPP TEXT ONLY to Jeff Berger; WhatsApp 721-588-4188. Jeff will pass the information to the owner. WHATSAPP TEXT INQUIRIES ONLY PLEASE. Price including current N. V. concept, name, goodwill, fit-out and inventory, \$595K. Price for lease, fit-out, and inventory ONLY, \$395,000

Note from Jeff: I have no involvement in this transaction; am just gathering inquiries for the owner, a long-time friend.

29. 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. <u>Here's what's best</u>: 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.

 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. <u>If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483</u>

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.)

 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.

30. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 1/31/22)

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 <u>Everything SXM Facebook</u> <u>Group</u> 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

<u>Celine Charters</u> (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

COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE (NEW):

Coffee Lounge & More: Head of town in Philipsburg and Simpson Bay near Domino's

COVID TESTING:

Medcare (near Avantika in Puerto del Sol)

Test-to-Fly (new 1/22)

CUBAN CIGARS:

Cigar Mack

SXM Cigars

DOLLAR STORES

All in One Place (Near Carrefour and now in Simpson Bay near Domino's)

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.)

FASHIONS FOR WOMEN

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road, Simpson Bay, opposite Atrium Hotel. (New 1/22)

JEWELERS:

SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News

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

SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News

Mary's Boon (new 1/22)

RESTAURANTS & BARS

<u>IZI</u>

SPIGA

VESNA TAVERNA

ISOLA

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

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)

COFFEE LOUNGE & More, Head of town in Philipsburg & Simpson bay near Domino's (new)

SOUVENIRS

Flamboyant on The Boardwalk, Philipsburg (new 1/22)

<u>SPAS</u>

Sunset Spa, Simpson Bay Resort (11/21)

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 <u>Island Real Estate Team</u>. 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

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

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 1/17/22

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our Everything SXM Facebook Group and you'll find about 28,000 SXM tourists who love SXM as much as you do.

Our site is the best place around to ask questions and get answers about SXM -- around the clock. Check it out.

34. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out <u>here</u>. It has just been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

Get The Current Low Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-591-3483. More info? See <u>skymed.com/jmb</u> or email Jeff at <u>jeff.berger@skymed.com</u>. **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.

35. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our <u>everythingSXM.com</u> website and its Hurricane Center, and our <u>Everything SXM Facebook</u> <u>Group</u> — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — <u>are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors</u>.

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: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>.

Want to rent or buy a week?

"2022 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>. 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: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>. You **CAN <u>NOT</u>** 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 <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>; 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)

 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

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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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