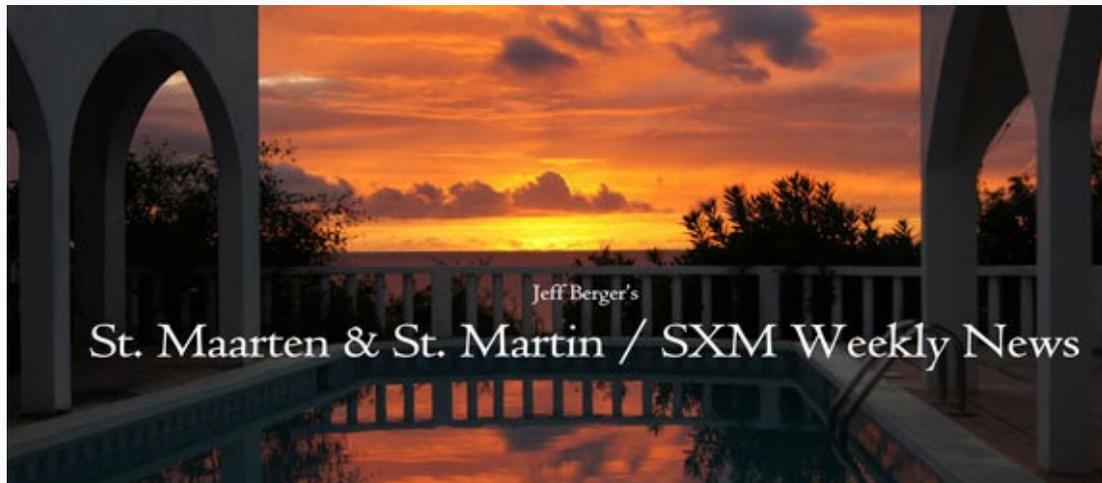


From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/20/23: Arrivals & Departures at SXM Airport - An Important Update; JW Marriott Resort Getting Closer to Its Grand (Re)Opening; AA Increases SXM Flights; BLACK FRIDAY SALE BEGINS; GEBE Strikes Again; A Probable Outcome of the jetBlue / Spirit Merger Court Case; Enter Our 7-Vacation Giveaway -- Details Inside; Last Call for Thanksgiving Dinner Reservations [#1415 - 51 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

Go [HERE](#) for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

Vol. 4, #1415 ---- Monday, November 20, 2023
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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WHAT'S BELOW---

[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

[Member News](#)

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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at the end of this newsletter.**

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Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). *You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a [JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program](#) 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 over 385,000 people around the world.

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook, MeWe, and Twitter Pages:



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

Download PDFs of recent editions here in our **SXM WEEKLY NEWS PDF ARCHIVES:**

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

TOP STORIES in today's SXM Weekly News:

Getting Here; Weather:

- **LEAD STORY: SXM Airport ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES: An Important Heads Up**
- **AA Increases Flights to SXM**
- **Stone Fox Capital Expecting Jet Blue / Spirit Merger to Get Court Approval**
- **Hurricane Season Almost Over, But...**
- **Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info**

SXM Accommodations (Hotels Etc.) & Buying SXM Condos or Villas:

- **NEW: The Ultimate Guide to Relocation in SXM**
- **Hundreds of 2024 Timeshare Condos For Rent / Sale Directly From Owners Available Now on Our Main Site**
- **Why Our Rental Ads are Different - And Superior**

JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

- **TWO \$100 Jewelry "Gift Cards" NOW LIVE: Where to Find Them (Reminder)**
- **Got Favorite SXM Restaurants / Jewelry Stores? Want Discounts or Other Incentives to Go There? Here's How:**

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- *****LEAD STORY: SXM Airport ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES: An Important Heads Up*****
- **LEAD STORY -- A Look Forward to the '24 - '25 Hurricane Season (Repeat)**
- **Enter Our 7 SXM VACATION Giveaway Where The Vacations & Other Prizes Are & How to Enter**
- **Legendary BLACK FRIDAY SALE Begins TONIGHT (Monday Evening by 8PM EST)**
- **LAST CALL FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER RESERVATIONS**
- **SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE**
- **All-New JW Marriott Resort Closing in on Grand Reopening on Dawn Beach**
- **Thanksgiving '23 Should be a Ginormous Kickoff to the 2023-24 High Season**
- **JEWELER OF THE WEEK: Oro Diamante (2nd in a Series)**
- **Restaurant of the Week: Mario's Bistro**
- **First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits**
- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**

Please see our [complete Table of Contents](#) below.

In This Issue: - 51 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://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 (or Condo) RENTAL of The Week:

RENTAL 2/18/2024 2/25/2024 7 Hilton Vacations Club Flamingo Beach Resort Second floor renovated deluxe studio located in building 7. Unit contains king size bed, sleeper sofa, full kitchen, wifi and TV. Resort offers beautiful pool, pool bar, hot tubs, bbq and fire pit, laundry facilities and free parking. Bars, restaurants, and casino all within walking distance. Renter responsible to pay timeshare fee of \$50. \$1,400 Greg 203-982-7091 guisti@comcast.net

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

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) SALE of The Week:

SALE 3/9/2024 3/23/2024 10 & 11 ROYAL ISLANDER LA PLAG 2 BR ANTILLEAN STYLE UNIT. Unit 1101 Saturday usage. This two-bedroom suite has a spacious master bedroom with a King size bed, a guest bedroom with two queen size beds, a queen pull-out sleeper that sleeps two in the living room, a dining area, a kitchen, and two private bathrooms. Maximin occupancy 6. Direct access to Maho Beach, sand deck, and gardens. This unit has oceanfront views Wi-Fi access throughout the resort Array of restaurants, lounges, bars including lobby bar Access to Serenity Spa and gym Outdoor pool, children's™s pool, hot tub. Steps to Maho Village filled with shops, lounges and the largest gaming emporium and theatre Casino Royale Walking distance to tennis and paddle courts. Supermarket and pharmacy 24-hour security Front desk service housekeeping service laundry facility Covered parking, access to Dollar Thrifty car rental Ice machines Business center \$3595 per week Richard March royalislanderowners@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): Scroll down this page to see our recommended Real Estate companies, listed under "Sponsors."

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Group:](#)



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

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

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

Search the *SXM Weekly News Archives:*

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

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

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

COMPLETE Table of Contents

Section One: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Going Home, Etc./ Weather

--Scroll Down in This Section--

Getting Here:

1. **LEAD STORY: SXM Airport ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES: An Important Heads Up**
2. **AA Increases Flights to SXM**
3. **Stone Fox Capital Expecting Jet Blue / Spirit Merger to Get Court Approval**
4. **Air France A330 Finally Takes Off**
5. **Air France/KLM to Replace Its A330 Fleet With A350s (But Not Quickly)**
6. **Medical Evacuation Costs Soar; Got \$50,000++? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medevac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency**
7. **WINTER WEATHER IS COMING: What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...**

Etc.; Weather

8. **Hurricane Season Hanging On, Spawns Two New Systems**
9. **A Look Forward to the 2024 and 2025 Hurricane Seasons (Repeat)**
10. **Check Out Our Satellite Images & Radar Loops Showing Current SXM/Tropical Weather**
11. **Where to Find SXM / Tropical Weather Updates**

Section Two: Accommodations / Buying SXM Condos or Villas (*Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.*)

--Scroll Down To This Section--

12. **NEW: The Ultimate Guide to Relocation in SXM**
13. **Hundreds of 2024 Timeshare Condos For Rent / Sale Directly From Owners Available Now on Our Main Site**
14. **Why Our Rental Ads are Different - And Superior**
15. **Looking to Buy a Condo or Villa in SXM? Our Everything SXM Facebook Group Brings You SXM's Top Realtors**
16. **Best Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas**
17. **Reminder: JMB Members May Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums On Our Site**
18. **How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units**
19. **SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals**

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

Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

--Scroll Down To This Section--

20. **TWO \$100 Jewelry "Gift Cards" NOW LIVE: Where to Find Them (Update)**
21. **Own a Business in SXM? Offer Our Members a Discount or Incentive to Visit You!**
22. **Newly Updated Contact Information for JMB Communications, JMB Website Supporters Members**

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

23. PREVENT MEDICAL BANKRUPTCY -- Get SKYMED Global "Ultimate" Medevac Protection for \$1.64/day (Cheaper Than a Cup of Coffee):

THIS WEEK'S TOP ISLAND NEWS:

24. THE FULL SKYMED STORY: What SkyMed Medevac Protection Is, Where & How It Works, and More

**25. Answering Your Questions: What EXACTLY Does SkyMed Do?
---from Jeff Berger**

- 26. ===Heads Up Re: Vacation-Ruining Slips & Falls=====
- 27. ***LEAD STORY: SXM Airport ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES: An Important Heads Up***
- 28. LEAD STORY -- A Look Forward to the '24 - '25 Hurricane Season (Repeat)
- 29. Enter Our 7 SXM VACATION Giveaway Where The Vacations & Other Prizes Are & How to Enter
- 30. Legendary BLACK FRIDAY SALE Begins TONIGHT (Monday Evening by 8PM EST)
- 31. LAST CALL FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER RESERVATIONS
- 32. SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE
- 33. All-New JW Marriott Resort Closing in on Grand Reopening on Dawn Beach
- 34. Thanksgiving '23 Should be a Ginormous Kickoff to the 2023-24 High Season
- 35. What If You Don't Like Turkey?
- 36. Dutch Side Road Repairs...Another Look
- 37. GEBE Strikes Again
- 38. St. Maarten Medical Center Strikes, Too
- 39. St. Maarten General Hospital "Progress"
- 40. Pinel Island Ferry Dock Beach Parking Area Improvements
- 41. Restaurant Variety: Take Another Look at Our "Restaurant of the Week" Selections
- 42. JEWELER OF THE WEEK: Oro Diamante (Second in a Series)
- 43. Restaurant of the Week: Mario's Bistro at The Cliff, Cupecoy Beach
- 44. Enormous Library of SXM Information is On The Web
- 45. Flying This Winter or Next Spring? Something IMPORTANT You Should Know
- 46. Getting Answers to All Your Questions About SXM
- 47. Important Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters & SkyMed Sales Inquiries
- 48. Who Our Sponsors Are, and Why You Should Patronize Them
- 49. First Responders / Military / MDs & Nurses Now Get Platinum Benefits
- 50. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
- 51. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

- 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 password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- 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 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, Covid, & Weather, Etc.

GETTING HERE:

1. LEAD STORY: SXM Airport ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES: An Important Heads Up Concerning the Incremental Nature of These Changes

First, **ARRIVALS:**

As work on the complete new Arrivals area inside the terminal building progresses, Arrivals had to be moved out of the building temporarily. The result was a SMALL (one carousel) Temporary Arrivals Building -- and long queues of arriving passengers (especially between 2 and 4pm Saturdays). It was quickly criticized and those responsible for it agreed with the criticism and are moving forward to mitigate the issues. Work on improving this situation is underway as you read this, and we will report more specifics here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as they are implemented.

The Arrivals experience is being improved *incrementally*.

Second, **DEPARTURES:**

The all new permanent DEPARTURES area has opened incrementally. What that means is:

- The check-in areas that have been in use for the last few years remain in use until December 15, At that time, the sparkling new check-in area on the main floor will open, and with it some concession areas.
- Once you have checked in downstairs, you go to the all-new / reimagined Entry to the upstairs Security area where your carry-on baggage is scanned and your passport is verified. At the Entry point on the first floor, you scan your boarding pass at an automated kiosk (there are several) then go upstairs by escalator, stairs, or an elevator (your choice).
- Upstairs you put your carry-ons into open-top plastic containers (bigger than before) for automated security screening.
- After Security, you go to one of several e-passport scanning devices (for people with chip-embedded passports), or to one of the manual passport scanning devices. The e-passport scanners had a software issue when we saw them last week but before last Saturday we were told it had been fixed.
- After passport verification, you go to your gate. Note: Until some other construction work has been completed on the second floor, not all jetways will be usable; all of them will be functioning normally by mid-December.

All gates will be open shortly. In the interim, you will either take the new jet bridge (jetway) to your plane, or you will go downstairs and outside to your plane by bus.

Third, **AMENITIES:**

There will be a number of amenities opening over the next FEW weeks including shops, restaurants, a bar, and more. Shipments of construction materials to them were delayed over the last month thanks to two near-misses by hurricanes. There WILL be Food available (Domino's is open) and shops will open very soon.

Fourth, **TIMETABLE:**

The complete DEPARTURE facilities will be open by December 15 -- again, this is an incremental launch and more comes on line every week.

Fifth & Last, **EXPECTATIONS:**

Until SXM Airport fully reopens (including ARRIVALS) during Q2 2024, the incremental launch process will continue. Always be three hours EARLY for all Departures. Expect Saturdays, when a large plurality of passengers arrives and departs, to be the busiest day -- as always. If alternative flight days are available, we recommend you ticket your party on any day but Saturday.

2. AA Increases Flights to SXM

This is not new flights from new departure cities to SXM (wish it were), but other changes that may make travel easier for some people. Here is [that story](#).

3. Stone Fox Capital Expecting Jet Blue / Spirit Merger to Get Court Approval

Interesting observations from this investment firm:

- **JetBlue Airways is set to acquire Spirit Airlines** due to a weak case filed by the Department of Justice (DoJ) to block the merger.
- **The combination of JetBlue and Spirit Airlines would create a low-cost threat to the major airlines.**
- **The judge is likely to approve the merger due to weak results in the domestic airline sector and the potential competitive threat posed by the airline combination.**
- **Spirit Airlines shareholders will obtain \$30+ in cash on the deal closure, and a beaten-down JetBlue stock provides an interesting place to roll over the cash.**

Hopefully we'll all know the verdict in the next few weeks. We will continue to cover this important story. Spirit and jetBlue both serve SXM and they both have mostly Airbus fleets, which makes fleet integration simpler. If the merger is permitted to proceed Spirit will ultimately cease to exist and its planes (those that jetBlue doesn't sell off or scrap) will be converted to jetBlue's more comfortable seating and their new blue aircraft livery.

Here is [more from Stone Fox](#).

4. Air France A330 Finally Takes Off

The Air France A330 that was temporarily marooned in SXM, presumably due to mechanical issues, took off about a week ago as flight 975, a designation apparently given to planes with issues being returned to CDG in Paris.

5. Air France/KLM to Replace Its A330 Fleet With A350s (But Not Quickly)

Some of the older Airbus A330 aircraft being flown here from Paris by Air France will be replaced starting in 2026 with newer, more fuel efficient A350 aircraft -- a key competitor of Boeing's 787. That full story, regarding a big upgrade to the Air France / KLM fleets, is [here](#).

**ASK ALL YOUR SXM FRIENDS TO SUBSCRIBE TO
SXM WEEKLY NEWS**

**-- SXM's ONLY PROFESSIONALLY WRITTEN WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER FOR TOURISTS.**

Subscribe free at www.sxmweeklynews.com

NOTE: *Subscribing is required to make you eligible to enter our ginormous 7-vacation giveaway!*

6. MEDICAL EVACUATION COSTS SOAR; Got \$55,000++? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medevac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency

\$55,000 or more payable in cash in advance could be what you must pay out-of-pocket should you need emergency

medical evacuation while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or anywhere in the Caribbean. By contrast, SkyMed Takes You Home® for zero dollars when you become critically ill or injured in any of those countries *if you are a SkyMed member.* **All it takes is one phone call and SkyMed does everything. That \$50,000 you might have to spend without SkyMed assumes that you can make all the arrangements, find and hire the jet, make sure it is properly outfitted for the specific medical problems you face, staff it with appropriate medical professionals who are cleared to travel back home to the US or Canada, and take care of customs, immigration, and loads of other paperwork including Ambulances and getting your records to your Destination hospital.** By contrast, SkyMed does all of that and its members pay \$0 for the evacuation or ambulances related to it.

Setting up medical evacuations sounds complicated because it is and having to do all this in a medical emergency is a daunting task for anyone who has never done it. *For about \$1.64/day for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership. SkyMed will do all of this stuff once you make that single quick phone call.*

For more information, call us today at 508-747-8281 or Jeff.Berger@skymed.com. Include your phone number and time zone so we can call back and get all your questions answered. We can also take your application by phone in roughly 10 minutes.

GET SKYMED NOW FOR THEIR BEST OFFERS! SEE more stories in our main news section.

7. WINTER WEATHER IS COMING: What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled or Delayed...

What should you do if your flight is canceled or delayed? This [article](#) gives you answers.

Etc./Weather

8. Hurricane Season Hanging On, Spawns New System

Although the '23 Atlantic hurricane season ends officially 11/30, Mother Nature is hanging on. A new system formed late last week and was at first expected to be named Tropical Storm Vince, then it wasn't. But it was forecast to deliver very heavy rains to some areas hundreds of miles away from SXM.

For the latest information on this, see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

9. A Look Forward to the 2024 and 2025 Hurricane Seasons (Repeat)

by Rob Lightbown, Chief Meteorologist, [Crown Weather](#) & Everything SXM

Even though the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season hasn't officially ended, I wanted to go over what I'm seeing for the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

First & Foremost - It looks like the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season could be very active. Early signals in the data seems to point towards the potential for El Nino conditions to weaken quickly and become neutral ENSO conditions by the start of summer, 2024. Should this come to pass, it could mean wind shear conditions would be very favorable for tropical systems and an atmosphere that's unstable and favorable for tropical development.

In addition, seasonal models seem to be pointing towards lower than average surface barometric pressures across much of the tropical Atlantic throughout the 2024 season.

If that wasn't enough, seasonal guidance for the summer of 2024 seems to be pointing towards a swath of above average rainfall that stretches from the coast of Africa westward through the Caribbean and into the southeastern United States. This is concerning as it could be highlighting where many of the tropical systems could go during the 2024 season.

Editor's Note: For much more -- including info on Crown Weather's very low-priced year-round subscription weather program which we have recommended for many years -- see www.crownweather.com.

10. Check Out Our Satellite Images & Radar Loops Showing Current SXM/Tropical Weather

They update continually and you can access them 24/7 by clicking "Weather" in our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com, which is now closing in on 12 million visits (combined for all our SXM sites).

11. Where to Find SXM / Tropical Weather Updates

If you're interested in knowing what the latest watches and warnings are from the National Hurricane Center and from authorities like Rob Lightbown, one of the foremost go-to experts in hurricane forecasting in the USA, see www.crownweather.com and subscribe to his inexpensive year-round forecasting service which tells you everything you need to know about tropical weather and your local severe weather forecasts year 'round..

Check out the hurricane/weather center in our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com. The site contains a weather/hurricane center which publishes all the latest watches and warnings for all storms around the clock, even if there are multiple storms being watched simultaneously. We are finishing an upgrade of that site to include more satellite images, radar loops, and other useful tropical weather information. You can get to our Weather Center by going to www.everythingsxm.com and clicking the weather link in our horizontal navigation bar. In recent years, tropical activity has begun around mid-May. Stay in touch with any or all of these sources of tropical weather information...

Here are SIX sources of current SXM weather info:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather Center / Hurricane Center" at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops 24/7/365 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. *That page also includes real-time or near-real-time satellite images and radar loops.*
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) 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 so you'll 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.
- 6) 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.*

In addition, when storms form or pass near SXM, we expect to run the latest forecasts, watches, warnings, and observations in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), and we will post all of that material directly in the weather center of our everything SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

[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**

SECTION 2: Accommodations / Buying SXM Condos or Villas: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Private Condos, Villas Etc.

12. NEW: The Ultimate Guide to Relocation in SXM

Moving to Sint Maarten: The Ultimate Guide

Discover everything you need to know about relocating to the stunning island of Sint Maarten with this comprehensive new guide. From how to obtain residency to the best neighborhoods, lifestyle, and culture, we've got you covered.

[Use this link](#) to access the Ultimate Guide

See Story 33 Regarding the All-New JW Marriott Resort on Dawn Beach --

Grand Opening Should be Coming Soon!

13. Hundreds of Timeshare Condos For Rent / Sale Directly From Owners Available Now on Our Main Site

Updated again late last week, our hundreds of listings of timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale come directly from SXM timeshare owners; you'll find them on our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com, which was extensively updated several days ago. There are no middlemen or other third parties involved in the sale of these units, so you will talk directly with the owner who is personally responsible for setting the rental or sale fees. The link to our timeshare listings is just below the masthead in our main SXM site, everythingSXM.com.

14. Why Our Rental Ads are Different - And Superior

There are many places where you can find ads for timeshares for rent — however, we only know one exactly like ours. *What makes us different is what makes us remarkable — and desirable.* We accept ads only from members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. Consequently, our member database contains info about these individuals — we know who they are. They routinely exchange their detailed contact information with buyers during the course of the rental process.

By contrast, many people place ads in various online locations anonymously (we don't allow that on our site). So if you buy from rental/sales sites other than ours, you are essentially buying from strangers.

Our information about timeshare owners is private — it is never sold or bartered to anyone. The only exception would be police exercising a warrant (for example, FBI seeking out cyber criminals among timeshare rental advertisers). We are happy to report we have never had any such request from any police organization since we first started publishing timeshare rental and sale ads in 2002. So, you can rent with confidence that you will get exactly what you are looking for.

You will find all our ads on www.everythingSXM.com, our main SXM website.

15. Looking for a Private Condo or Villa in SXM? Our Everything SXM Facebook Group Brings You SXM's Top Realtors

If you're looking to rent a privately owned condominium or villa on SXM, see our listings of the top SXM realtors in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). This week that list also appears in the next story.

16. Best Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas

The following list of our sponsor realtors tells you how to contact SXM's best sources of condos and villas across the island:

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 **#Blue Paradise Real Estate Agency** Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company. +590 690 22 18 22 blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

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

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

A more comprehensive list appears in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), under Sponsors.

Updated 4/17/23

Get your SKYMED MEMBERSHIP *BEFORE* you need it. Air ambulances are now more costly than ever: when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling, SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® to doctors and hospitals you know & trust. Otherwise you must pay tens of thousands of dollars in cash in advance to get a medevac jet -- if you can even do it (NOT easy or fast if you don't know how). SkyMed annual or multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day, and they're guaranteed renewable regardless of age or medical condition at renewal and they are PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE. Why wait? CALL today 508-747-8281 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com; include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family TODAY with SkyMed®!

17. Reminder: JMB Members May Now Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums On

Our Site

We are now accepting advertising for both timeshare resort condominiums as well as privately owned condominiums on the island directly from their owners who are current, active members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from 2023 and now 2024. Submit your ads through the members-only "Secret" website.

Not a member? Join us by clicking the page curl on our main site, www.everythingsxm.com. All the details you need are there. Processing takes several days. You can contact Membership Services at jmbcomms@gmail.com.

18. 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.

19. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

SkyMed Travel offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 15% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330; doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. *If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.*

You won't be disappointed.

Not a SkyMed member? Learn more about it at www.skymed.com/jmb, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281; don't forget to tell us your time zone. Thanks.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

20. TWO \$100 Jewelry "Gift Cards" NOW LIVE: Where to Find Them (Reminder)

They're now LIVE! Your 2023 Caribbean Gems \$100 Gift Certificate is now ready for downloading from the bottom of the home page of our Secret Site. Log in using the orange login box below the masthead at

everythingxsm.com. Not only can you download that cherished Caribbean Gems Gift Card, but you will find on our home page a surprise from another business...valued at \$100. These coupons are now LIVE at the bottom of the home page of our Secret Site. Available exclusively to current members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**; you must use them in person on SXM and your current, valid JMB membership card IS REQUIRED along with a government-issued photo ID. For more info on JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on our main site, www.everythingsxm.com.

USE THESE OFFERS NOW -- they may change early next year!

21. Own a Business in SXM? Offer Our Members a Discount or Incentive to Visit You!

If you own a St. Maarten or St. Martin business that caters to tourists, we have a free program that we like you to join: it's called our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. By participating in the program, you will offer our over 30,000 JMB Website Supporters members some kind of discount or incentive for visiting your establishment. We are especially looking for restaurants, bars, beach bars, and related businesses. There is currently no charge for this program.

There are also separate opportunities for SXM businesses to promote what they offer to the over 38,000 members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (about 98% tourists); for information on that program, please PM any admin of the [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

22. Newly Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters Discounts and SkyMed Medevac Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 11/18/23)

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 508-747-8281 and leave a message. (Updated 4/17/23.)**
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. You may also phone Membership Services directly at 508-747-8281.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it freely for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.** Thank you.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

23. PREVENT MEDICAL BANKRUPTCY -- Get SKYMED Global "Ultimate" Medevac Protection for \$1.64/day (Cheaper Than a Cup of Coffee):

Only \$1.64/day - *LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE* -- gets you global SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for virtually all your upcoming trips -- and it protects you AT HOME, too.

Buy it NOW, *BEFORE* you need it -- just like fire insurance.

For info see the links below, and for answers to questions or to sign up by phone call 508-747-8281 or email jeff.berger@skymed.com. NOTE: My prices for SkyMed's best ULTIMATE memberships ARE MUCH LOWER THAN YOU WOULD PAY ONLINE.

.....PLUS THIS:.....

**"Thank YOU for Your Service"
Bonuses 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.**

24. THE FULL SKYMED STORY: What SkyMed Medevac Protection Is, Where & How It Works, and More

WHAT IS SKYMED? WHERE DOES SKYMED WORK?

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 otherwise cost non-SkyMed members \$50,000 and up payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that? Of course, you must **get SkyMed membership before you need it -- just like fire insurance.** You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services [here](#), and you'll find Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

WHAT ARE "ULTIMATES"?

SkyMed Ultimates are SkyMed's best memberships and also its **LEAST EXPENSIVE** on a cost-per-day basis (about \$1.64/day for family protection). They offer a suite of 18 services in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean - plus an additional suite of 26 services to help you in most of

the rest of the world. They are offered in monthly-pay (minimum payment period two years), three-year, and five-year versions -- the five-year delivers the lowest cost per day available for Ultimate memberships (about \$1.64).

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 DIRECTLY (contact info below) for details on all of our major-league savings on SkyMed Ultimate multi-year membership prices.

• **LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE / GUARANTEED RENEWABLE MEMBERSHIPS:**

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 2023 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. SkyMed annual and longer memberships are also Guaranteed Renewable when annual or multiyear fees are paid on time -- guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or declining health.

• **HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us ANYTIME at 508-747-8281 for answers to questions or to sign up. When you call us directly, we get credit for the sale. You can also email us directly through SkyMed at jeff.berger@skymed.com.**

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>. But please CALL ME DIRECTLY with questions or to sign up - that way I get credit (number above). Or jeff.berger@skymed.com

• **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 (those 26 additional Ultimate global services mentioned above) is provided by GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, a SkyMed company.

• **Key Differences Between SkyMed Short-Term & Annual or Ultimate 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 the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a per-day basis: \$18/day.** They're 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 a specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for benefits. When you want protection for another future trip, you must make a separate application for it and qualify again. **Although at \$18/day per couple SkyMed short-term protection is the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a cost-per-day basis,** short-term protection is economical if you seldom travel and take very brief trips. The cost is \$12/day per individual, or a maximum of \$15/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. This is KEY: SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health - and they are also price guaranteed forever -- your price will not go up as long as you renew your membership on time.** Details are in SkyMed's Member Service Agreement (MSA). We currently have members who are still traveling and are in their upper 80s and 90s. **The cost of annual memberships per family is far more economical than the \$18/day per family for short-term coverage -- it's now about \$1.64/day total.** Multiyear memberships also have more features; contact me for full information about features of each type of SkyMed membership. **Ultimate memberships protect you worldwide, including AT HOME.** I can answer all your questions by phone in minutes, and can also take your application by phone (that way I get credit and you pay my unique low Association rates. not available online at SkyMed's website; there you pay retail). Phone 508-747-8281 or email jeff.berger@skymed.com. That's a direct line to Jeff Berger. *Updated 5/8/23.*

***Final Word About the SkyMed Ultimate*:**

Again, 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 -- *plus another suite of 26 services around the world.* **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 office line, 508-747-8281. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). When contacting us **PLEASE** include your phone number, time zone, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
5/8/23

25. Answering Your Questions: What EXACTLY Does SkyMed Do? --- *from Jeff Berger*

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*. **In recent months as many of you have decided to resume normal worldwide travel, you've asked us for examples of what SkyMed does.** Here you go:

For answers to questions or to sign up, email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com or call me at 508-747-8281. Open to Americans & Canadians & xPats only. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the last 34+ 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. IMPORTANT: Buy directly through me: our pricing for multiyear memberships is much lower than SkyMed's retail pricing published on the web.

Here are specific examples of how SkyMed works for its members:

On a 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 when serious or critical injuries occur in the "SkyMed universe", 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 about \$1.64/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger 24/7 at 508-747-8281 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 take your application 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 www.skymed.com/jmb. 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.

Updated 5/8/23

26. ===Heads Up Re: Vacation-Ruining Slips & Falls=====

Slips and falls -- always unexpected-- often cause broken hips or broken legs on vacations, cruises, and business travel -- suddenly necessitating an emergency medical evacuation costing at least \$55,000, payable in cash in advance before anything happens.

Got a spare \$55,000 ready for a sudden medical emergency?

For \$1.64/day, SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling. *Don't risk \$50K or more ripped from your life savings.* Call today for answers to questions, more details, or to sign up: Jeff Berger, SkyMed Ambassador, 508-591-3483.

[\$1.64/day is for SkyMed's guaranteed-renewable-for-life, price-guaranteed-forever annual memberships and its five-year Ultimate memberships; Ultimates provide services around the world. Call us today to learn more.]

27. ***LEAD STORY: SXM Airport ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES: An Important Heads Up***

In case you missed it, this complete, important story appears as story 1 in the "Getting Here" section, above. Don't Miss It!

28. LEAD STORY -- A Look Forward to the '24 - '25 Hurricane Season (Repeat)

by Rob Lightbown, Chief Meteorologist, [Crown Weather](#) & Everything SXM

Even though the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season hasn't officially ended yet... I wanted to go over what I'm seeing for the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

First & Foremost - It looks like the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season could be very active. Early signals in the data seems to point towards the potential for El Nino conditions to weaken quickly and become neutral ENSO conditions by the start of summer, 2024. Should this come to pass, it could mean wind shear conditions would be very favorable for tropical systems and an atmosphere that's unstable and favorable for tropical development.

In addition, seasonal models seem to be pointing towards lower than average surface barometric pressures across much of the tropical Atlantic throughout the 2024 season.

If that wasn't enough, seasonal guidance for the summer of 2024 seems to be pointing towards a swath of above average rainfall that stretches from the coast of Africa westward through the Caribbean and into the southeastern United States. This is concerning as it could be highlighting where many of the tropical systems could go during the 2024 season.

Editor's Note: For much more -- including info on Crown Weather's very low priced year-round subscription weather program which we have recommended for many years -- see www.crownweather.com.

29. Enter Our Newly Expanded 7 SXM VACATION Giveaway; Where The Vacations Are & How to Enter

Our **EXPANDED 7-SXM VACATION GIVEAWAY** - Complete prize list and how to enter! Revised 11/18/23!

For **SXM WEEKLY NEWS DIRECT (Not Pass-Along) SUBSCRIBERS EXCLUSIVELY, & JMB Website Supporters Members!**

All prizes are subject to reasonable limitations for dollar value and availability from the businesses providing them. No purchase necessary to win.

UPDATED 11/18/23

Our 7 SXM vacation giveaways are:

Azure Hotel & Art Studio;
Belair Beach Hotel;
Cocovaa Beach Resort (formerly El Zafiro);
Colony Manor Golden Daze beach villa;
Mary's Boon Beach Resort;
Orient Beach Hotel; and
Simpson Bay Resort.

Dinners for Two:

Amore American Italian, Simpson Bay;
Bamboo House, Cole Bay;
Bistrot Caraibes, Grand Case;
Bold Buddha Restaurant, Philipsburg (Boardwalk);
Emilio's Restaurant, Philipsburg, at Rainforest Adventures;
Freedom Fighters' Ital Shack, Philipsburg, Vegetarian/Rastafarian Cuisine;
IZI Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay;
Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine, Simpson Bay (\$120 limit, drinks included);
La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza;
Mario's Bistro, Cupecoy;
NOLA Bayou Bistro, Simpson Bay;
Roma Cucina Italiana, Oasis at Maho;
The Chef's Table, Simpson Bay;
Secret Seafood, Simpson Bay;
Topper's Restaurant, Simpson Bay;
Vesna Taverna, Simpson Bay

Car Rental for our Grand Prize Winner:

Leisure Car Rental

Concierge Services (to expedite your trip through SXM Airport, arriving or departing)

Xcellence Concierge Services

Deep-Sea Fishing Charter (Half Day)

Taylor-Made Charters, Simpson Bay (Capt. Dougie)

French Bakery

La Sucriere French Bakery, Simpson Bay (Gift Certificate)

Gelateria – Ice Cream

Topper's Gelateria – Two Big Full Hand-Packed QUARTS of their amazing homemade ice cream

Jewelry Prizes:

Caribbean Gems
Majesty Jewelers
Oro Diamante
Ray's Jewelry
Shoppers Haven (\$250 Gift Certificate for fine jewelry)
Zhaveri Jewelers

MAPS - SXM MAPS

Our two top prize-winners will each receive the SXM street map from Kasprowsky Publishers AND their map of the entire Caribbean. See more at www.midok.com.

Massage Services

Patty Healing Hands; Patty goes to your location

Media Recognition:

The Grand Prize winner will be invited to appear with "Dr. Soc" on Island 92 radio during their visit. She or he (first name and last initial only) will also be the subject of a news release to local media from our parent company JMB Communications of Plymouth Massachusetts.

Parfumerie – Tijon Parfumerie

Perfume-Making class for two!

Rum Distillery Topper's Rhum Distillery,
Simpson Bay, Tour & Free Samples

T-Shirts - Life is Good

\$100 Gift Certificate at the Front Street
Life is Good Store

If you are a direct subscriber to *SXM Weekly News* (NOT a passalong reader), you qualify to enter the giveaway. Subscriptions are free, as always; subscribe at sxmweeklynews.com. Grand prize and First prize winners will each get separate Dinner & Jewelry prizes.

Enter [here](#).

NOTE: In March we plan to announce yet another giveaway -- it will be JEWELRY ONLY.....

30. Legendary BLACK FRIDAY SALE Begins TONIGHT (Monday Evening by 8PM EST)

Starting tonight (Monday November 20) at 8pm EST, when you buy any NEW JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program NEW or RENEWAL membership for more than two years, you get **TWO EXTRA YEARS FREE!** We've never done this before and this sale ENDS SOON, put Post-It notes on your computer or phone to remind you! The TWO YEARS EXTRA are automatic starting at 8pm EST MONDAY! **Don't miss this one-time-only offer!**

31. LAST CALL FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER RESERVATIONS

If you are on SXM and have NOT yet made Thanksgiving Dinner reservations, DO IT NOW. The island will be packed (despite airport issues) and you risk being turned away without reservations. See our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) for info on who is offering Thanksgiving dinners. HINT: It is very common on the Dutch side but rare on the French side.

Speaking of restaurants -- if you've ever wanted to own a very successful restaurant right here in SXM, see the next story.

32. SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE:

SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE -- 100 seats (inside and covered terrace), award-winning, great reputation, everything in like-new condition, off-street parking, experienced staff. \$395K and \$5K monthly rent. Contact sxmrestaurantforsale@hotmail.com and INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, owner will return your call. NO REALTORS. Location: Welfare Road, Simpson Bay.

33. All-New JW Marriott Resort Closing in on Grand Reopening on Dawn Beach

The former Westin Dawn Beach Resort, Casino, and Spa and its neighboring Dawn Beach Club (timeshare operation) were practically obliterated by hurricane Irma in 2017. The Dawn Beach Club was the first part of the operation to be repaired / renovated; it reopened a few years ago.

As reported here some time ago, the reimagined former Westin has been / is being transformed now into an upscale JW Marriott Resort. It has fewer but bigger, more luxurious rooms -- now with better amenities and its legendary beautiful ocean beach.

The JW Marriott is now advertising for the full staff it needs for the facility. Although it still hasn't announced its revised formal Grand Opening date, our guess is it'll be soon after the first of the year. Staff must be hired, trained, outfitted, etc. Some time ago it had announced "November" for opening but it won't be ready, from what we can tell.

Do you have pictures of construction progress? Please post them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

34. Thanksgiving '23 Should be a Ginormous Kickoff to the 2023-24 High Season

Although high season here doesn't officially begin until December 15, Thanksgiving Week is usually very busy as families come down here to escape the cold and celebrate Thanksgiving with full, sumptuous, delicious traditional turkey (or ham or...) lunches / dinners. They are served here by the thousands --mostly on the Dutch side where American tourists dominate the landscape. If you're here and don't yet have turkey day reservations, see story 31.

35. What If You Don't Like Turkey?

No worries. Most (but not all) restaurants serving Thanksgiving Dinners also serve their full regular menus. Ask first so everyone is happy on Turkey Day.

Incidentally -- Pilgrims at Thanksgiving did not eat the current domesticated white-feathered turkeys consumed today. They had wild game (including wild turkeys, which are much different from the domesticated variety), vegetables, animals hunted in the Plymouth area, etc. Thanksgiving itself was not officially a holiday until long after the 1621 pilgrims you see depicted inaccurately in many paintings.

36. Dutch Side Road Repairs...Another Look

There has been NO visible progress in fixing the jaw-jarring potholes that dot the Dutch side landscape. They are not pervasive, but there are enough of them to be monumentally annoying -- particularly after you've bounced through some of them multiple times.

Hopefully they will be fixed by the end of next month. We'll keep you posted.

Please see the next story, which also involves infrastructure.

37. GEBE Strikes Again

GEBE, the Dutch side electrical company, is said to be as reliable as a similar company in Zimbabwe. We've never been to Zimbabwe, but we'd wager that such a comparison is probably an egregious insult to the good people of Zimbabwe: we can't imagine their electric company being as loathsome as GEBE.

Whenever the company screws up, which is almost daily, the Dutch side government howls in derisive disbelief and anger. But, dear readers, this is disingenuous, since the government OWNS GEBE. So politicians may as well yell at the nearest mirror. They are ultimately responsible for GEBE's apparent endless incompetence.

The people who work there work hard and are dedicated individuals. It's the management that doesn't seem capable of generating power dependably, day in and day out.

Power went out in a number of areas after sunset one evening this week. I was halfway through shaving my head at the time. I will not bore you with the litany of epithets plainly heard from my dark bathroom at the time. Undeterred, I located my cell phone, but its light on, and finished the job. Luckily, and without thanks to GEBE, no blood resulted from my

Gillette blade head shaving in the dark.

Nice work, GEBE. I'm sure this is the first of many outages to come in the last weeks of the year: that is your usual pattern.

And Zimbabwe (we have readers there), our apologies to you for whoever compared you to GEBE. That just wasn't fair.

38. St. Maarten Medical Center Strikes, Too

One recent day there was a strike by some employees at SMMC which we are told presented no danger to patients there. It was quickly over and the hospital said it was a "misunderstanding," though we have heard no reaction from the strikers.

See next story.

39. St. Maarten General Hospital "Progress"

Last year, much of the basement of the new St. Maarten General Hospital had been built and was visible from nearby streets.

This year, much of the basement of the new St. Maarten General Hospital had been built and was visible from nearby streets. To be sure, there has been progress -- building the infrastructure for a modern hospital is a complex business. On the other hand, some politicians here wax livid (something they seem to love doing) at the "lack of progress" in getting the hospital built. There have been ongoing requests for more money to complete the project but still, all passersby see is a complicated basement.

They should start a lottery in which people guess when it will finally be completed and open. Perhaps funds from it could be used to fix Dutch side potholes on a timely basis...

40. Pinel Island Ferry Dock Beach Parking Area Improvements

This is one of the worst-smelling places on the island, thanks largely to masses of seaweed landing on the beach and being left there. But during the past year, a backhoe and dump truck have removed tons of the stuff, and now clean fill (sand) is being dumped at the edge of the beach -- apparently to recover it from erosion.

We know of no plans to pave the lot or flatten its moguls, though the later is possible at a reasonable cost. We'll keep you posted. We recently posted pictures of this work in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

41. Restaurant Variety: Take Another Look at Our "Restaurant of the Week" Selections

If you wonder which restaurants we regard as the best on SXM -- in a variety of genres -- look below for our "Restaurant of the Week" selections. Under this week's top restaurant story (below), we list many recent picks for Restaurant of the Week. Enjoy them all!

42. Jeweler of the Week: Oro Diamante (#2 of a Series)

Raju Budhrani: The Heart of a Jeweler

The story of Oro Diamanté spans decades and continents, but at its heart is a St. Maarten-based family business headed by a jeweler with much heart -- Raju Budhrani.

In 1972, Raju's father Mohandas G Budhrani (Mike, as friends and clients knew him), undertook a journey that would change the course of his family's history. He made the bold decision to migrate to Puerto Rico from India and opened a business there. Over a short period of time, he grew his business from one retail store to three.

In 1983, the family business took another step when Mike sent his oldest son (Raju's older brother, Manu) to survey the business climate in St. Maarten, and soon enough, the family expanded and opened a location on the Friendly Island. Three years later, Raju joined the family enterprise. "In my initial years, I dedicated myself to learning the trade from the ground up, understanding the intricate nuances of the jewelry business," Raju shares.

The early 1990s brought with them both challenges and life-altering decisions. A downturn in business in Puerto Rico and health concerns prompted the Budhrani patriarch to close the business there and make St. Maarten a permanent home. By this time, Mike's youngest son had also joined the family business, and the operation had expanded to three stores on the island.

Years passed, and Mike decided to entrust each of his sons with a share of the business to run independently. "It was a defining moment that would shape our future. Armed with the values and principles instilled by our father, I began the journey of running my own part of the family business and named it "Oro Diamanté" (Gold and Diamonds in Italian & Spanish).

While loose diamonds and engagement rings have always been a major part of our business, we also specialize in custom designed pieces and we source out jewelry that is unique. I enjoy offering exotic and hard-to-find gemstones to my clients. We carry everything from Paraiba Tourmaline, Padparadscha Sapphires, Natural Color changing gems like Alexandrite and even Garnet, to colored Diamonds. I am a firm believer in having all the Diamonds and unusual and exotic gemstones offered to our clients certified by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). Buying a Natural Diamond or Gemstone graded by the GIA is like buying peace of mind and can proudly be passed on to the next generation in a family.

Long-term relationships have been the key to growing Oro Diamanté over the years. "We are serving the second and third generation members of many families that we started relationships with us back in the 1980's and 1990's. This is a relationship business and over the years we have been blessed to consider a lot of our clientele very close friends and basically our extended family. The fact that we've been around for as long as we have, demonstrates that we are Jewelers that can be relied on and trusted.

"I only sell jewelry I believe is a good value. I won't buy let alone sell it if I feel it's overpriced. Our goal is to ensure the customer is getting the value they deserve when they make these special purchases. We do this to build long-term relationships, so making sure the price is fair and the customer is happy is paramount.

It is with this kind of dedication that Raju, his wife Jenny and their team approach special orders and custom-designed pieces. "While we can work quickly, this is an art form we cherish. I spend a lot of time sourcing merchandise, talking with clients both new and old and working with our counterparts on curated and custom pieces. We don't rush these creations; we take the time to listen to our customers' desires, starting from a simple sketch on paper and progressing to CAD renditions before the final handcrafting is executed."

A standout feature of Oro Diamanté is its extensive collection of pre-owned and new name-brand watches like Rolex, Omega and Cartier, among others. Due to their prestige and reputation of over 100 years, these brands have very high value retention and we have a large selection of highly sought after popular models that are no longer in production, rare vintage models and many hard-to-find new models that are in short supply.

Raju adds, "For over 30 years, Jenny and I have steered Oro Diamanté with dedication and passion, while our loyal and dedicated staff, many of whom have been with us for over two decades, have stood by our side. We are proud to be one of the premier jewelry and watch destinations on St. Maarten."

43. Restaurant of the Week: Mario's Bistro

Mario's Bistro is one of those rare extraordinary restaurants where it rings all the bells that are important to truly fine dining:

First, creativity. Many of the dishes you'll find at Mario's are uniquely his creations, presented beautifully, flavored exquisitely, and cooked to perfection. You will love how amazing everything looks when presented and you'll love the flavor, aroma, and textures even more. Mario's deserves our top accolade (rarely used): *this place is perfection.*

Second, service. Mario himself, the seasoned waitstaff here, and Bobby, the maître-d' / bartender, deliver dependably attentive, knowledgeable service from your arrival until your departure. Together they make you understand just how Mario's has become so enormously popular for decades.

Third, ambiance. Mario's is located in a stunning, open-air ocean view portion of the Cliff luxury condominiums in Cupecoy Beach, Dutch side.

Mario's Bistro is one of the finest restaurants you will ever visit -- anywhere. Make reservations before traveling to SXM. Closed Mondays. They only answer the phone during their evening opening hours.

Next week: Another fine SXM restaurant.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff www.mariobistrot.com/en/ (featured 11/20/23) 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.

L'Oursin Restaurant at La Samanna, a Belmond Hotel: Truly extraordinary fine-dining dining under the watchful eye of master Chef Dino Jagtiani. Collaborating with top Caribbean Chefs, L'Oursin delivers a thoroughly memorable panoply of flavors, aromas, and textures -- and the presentation is truly artistic and photo-worthy. Orders of magnitude beyond ordinary deliciousness! Reservations are essential: [+590 590 87 64 00](tel:+590590876400). (featured 11/13/23)

The French Touch on Old Street, off Front Street in central Philipsburg (featured 11/6/23). Great breakfasts and lunches in a quiet, attractive setting. Very reasonable prices, substantial menu. Under the direction of Jean-Pierre, formerly head of Antoine. **We loved it...**

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izisxm.com (featured 11/1/23). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's absolute best restaurants -- in fact it has been voted **BEST RESTAURANT OF ANY KIND ON SXM by readers of TripAdvisor**. Fun atmosphere, too. **Go and tell them we recommended it.**

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 10/23/23) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best Thai; Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Consistently excellent. Go...you'll become a regular.

Freedom Fighters Ital Shack (featured 10/16/23) is a unique vegan restaurant that delivers freshness beyond what you might expect. If you're looking for dining that is tantalizing, healthy, memorable, satisfying, and totally unique on SXM, this is your place. Highly recommended. More: www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant

The Chef Table (featured 7/31/23), is the new restaurant from award-winning chef Wendell Laurence. Located across the street in Simpson Bay from The Mailbox, it has just opened, and it offers a spectrum of culinary delights aimed at satisfying the most demanding set of taste buds. Chef Wendell has been serving delightful dishes across SXM for more than 15 years and this is his first time as an owner. See much for information and pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Highly recommended.

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road Northwest toward Shore Pointe and turn left before Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 6/19/2023) Parking, drinks, great lolo food, camaraderie, chairs and umbrellas, and an all-over tan on this traditionally clothing-optional beach. What could possibly be better?

The Coffee Lounge, (featured 6/5/23) **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.

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 5/30/23] 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.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 5/22/23) Chef-co-owner Ciro Russo & Lara Russo haven't missed a beat here as Spiga continues to be simply the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case, where it has a lot of competition. Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed.

Bamboo House (5/8/23), located high on a hill in Cole bay has spectacular island views and equally spectacular dining and service. Exquisite sushi, steaks, and lots more. Vegetarians welcome; people with special dietary needs are well cared-for here too. Jeff rates Bamboo with one huge WOW -- go; you will absolutely be visiting more than once. **More:** <https://www.bamboohouse-sxm.com/>

Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine (featured 3/20/23), **Simpson Bay** Leave your preconceptions behind! A 15-second walk to the opposite side of the building from Top Carrot. Outstanding dinners (and 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 an ever-growing

spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and tastes. You gotta try Jai's! Highest recommendation. See

<https://www.facebook.com/jaissxmresto>

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 3/6/23] 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.

Amore American/Italian Restaurant and Amore Lounge, Simpson Bay on the first floor of the Avantika building, Puerta del Sol. Highly recommended. Opened late February, 2023. Their [website](#) is now up. **Go!**

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, (featured 2/20/23): Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Bold Buddha Bar/Restaurant, 49 Front Street at Horizon View Hotel, Philipsburg (featured 1/16/23) Cool new place with seasoned service, very good tapas / Caribbean / Asian and other food, a superb location, and a perfect concept. Highly recommended; something new and different. Ideal place to cool off with a delicious drink and make your taste buds happy.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 1/9/23) Big, outstanding pizza, and sizable portions plus reasonable prices on numerous other delicious Italian specialties. They also have 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>

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 12/19/22). Now open every day but Monday for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining, reasonable pricing.

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 12/12/22). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Delicious food and excellent service. Highly recommended.

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 7/25/22) is from the organization that also operates Avantika and Amore in the same area of Simpson Bay. It's gorgeous, evolving, and has highest-quality written all over it. We go often and love it. See <https://www.astrasxm.com/>

Melange International Grill, Port de Plaisance (next to Princess Casino entrance). (featured 4/18/22) A spectrum of delightful offerings from Europe, the USA, and South America. One of the most eclectic menus on SXM. Delicious dining.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 2/28/22) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

Bovin Steakhouse at Simpson Bay Resort, Marina Plaza next to la Patrona (featured 2/21/22) Upscale restaurant offering sumptuous dining, outstanding service, and more than just steak (though we expect lots of steak lovers will flock here.

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.

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 (rhum is the French spelling) and rum cake when you dine. Open until late night. Sports on TV. From cops to billionaires, everyone loves Toppers.

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....

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.

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.

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

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44. Enormous Library of SXM Information is On The Web (Updated)

Regardless of what kind of SXM information you need, our sites deliver it.

Here are three examples:

- a) Our [SXM Weekly News PDF archives](#) include every edition of SXM Weekly News since 2014 -- 9 years of editions and hundreds of thousands of words of SXM information. Our PDF archives are searchable by keywords to make it easy for you to find whatever information you seek quickly and easily on your computer.
- b) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) is a repository for an enormous amount of SXM information posted during its more than 10 years of existence. You can search all posts ever allowed, for any SXM topic -- and you will find hundreds of posts on virtually any specific topic. If you don't find what you're looking for, you can always post a question on that site that will tap the brains of nearly 35,000 members, not counting their friends and spouses. The vast majority of our members are tourists who have spent years visiting SXM and have a wealth of information available.
- c) We have a **Files** area in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) with another enormous reservoir/library of island information. Our files are also searchable directly from our Everything SXM Facebook Group. They are also frequently updated by our admins and moderators, particularly Contessa Aiello who has written most of them.

Take advantage of these resources -- and don't forget to thank those who have made them possible.

45. Flying in Winter or Spring? Here's Something Else You Should Know

If you are traveling anywhere this Winter or next Spring, there is a way you can inject tremendous peace of mind into your travels.

For the first three months of any new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership, SkyMed excludes coverage of pre-existing conditions; after three months, those conditions are covered in full. **So...to AVOID ANY IMPACT on your travel plans this or Summer or Fall, buy your new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership NOW, at least three months ahead of your planned travel -- then the 90-day exclusion period for preexisting conditions will end before you travel...**

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46. Getting Answers to All Your Questions About SXM

Regardless of what questions you have about SXM, you can find the answers to any questions either in the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (where we post our current Guide to Entry Requirements) that answers many questions) or you can simply post a question on our site.

We now have over 36,000 members, more than other active SXM Facebook sites combined. Our site is also a unique news and information portal, not typical social media where people post pictures of smiling cats, monkeys standing on their heads, and other pointless items. Our SXM site is strictly SXM focused with no drivel. Join it today at www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM.

47. Important Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales (UPDATED 4/17):

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 508-747-8281 and leave a message.**
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.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.** Thank you.

48. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 11/13/23)

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 Sponsors' help makes our JMB Website Supporters members-only Island Parties possible (resuming next year) as well as all the work 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).

The following are all new Sponsors (same family): Bistrot Caraiibes; Sunshine SXM Studios; Bistrot Immi Development; Studio Orient Bay; SCI Sea & Sun. Secret Seafood House & Joseph Fun Boat Charters are both now Sponsors (same owner, Keith Joseph; 40 weeks).

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BAKERIES / DINE-IN & TO GO

Le Sucriere, Dutch side near Fedex (new 11/22)

BARS

Juggie's "The Smallest Bar In The World," Philipsburg

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

Rumbelly Boat Charters Pleasure boats, motorized and catamaran

BOUTIQUES

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road opposite Atrium Resort;

Life Is Good®, Philipsburg.

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Starlite Car Rental

CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS

Alisha Brookes

COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE:

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

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

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

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

ELECTRONICS (Cell Phones, TVs,. REPAIRS, Computers, Peripherals)

Smart Electronics, Simpson Bay (new 3/23)

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.) **CALL 508-747-8281 or email jeff.berger@skymed.com.**

FASHIONS FOR WOMEN

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road, Simpson Bay, opposite Atrium Hotel.

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

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#)

Jewels & Beyond (Maho)

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Royal Jewelers

Kay's Fine Jewelry

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MASSAGE

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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*.

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

Jennifer's Vacation Villas

Century 21 St. Maarten

Sunshine Properties

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Blue Paradise Real Estate**, Ms. Candie Billant

Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company

+590 690 22 18 22

blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

BrightFuture Realty

RESORTS:

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RESTAURANTS, BARS, & BEACH BARS (see also BAKERIES)

[IZI](#) (See their new website)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Topper's Restaurant, Gelateria, & Rhum Distillery

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

BOVIN STEAKHOUSE

NOLA Bayou Bistro (James "Jimbo" Morris)

The Chef's Table (new 7/31), Chef Wendell Laurence

At Oasis:

--ROMA (Marco Ferrante)

--Mr. Chow (Ivan)

--The Deli

Emilio's

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar

ROXXY Bar / Restaurant

LAZY LIZARD

RANCHO del SOL

SUNSET CAFE (Grand Case)

AVANTIKA

ASTRA

AMORE

JAI'S CONTEMPORARY FUSION CUISINE

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

BOLD BUDDHA Restaurant, Great bay beach Promenade at Horizon View Hotel (new)

BUCCANEER BEACH BAR

BAMBOO HOUSE (new 5/16/22)

LE PERLE BLEU Restaurant Simpson Bay & **Le Perle Bleu Beach Bar** (Welfare Road) (new 11/22)

FLEUR DE SEL Hope Estate / French Side (new 11/22)

La Rosa, Maho Plaza

La Sucriere

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

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

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Martin Like St. Maarten (Maarten Leon)

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 **#Blue Paradise Real Estate Agency** Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company
+590 690 22 18 22
blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

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

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

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 11/13/23

49. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

CALL US at 508-747-8281.

50. 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 will soon be thoroughly updated (we're several months behind). Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday). We do have some catching up to do...

Get The Lowest 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 most Mondays

between about 9:45am and 10am island time

on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.

51. 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

"2023 and 2024 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale" are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret

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 main St. Maarten / St. Martin website:

www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

CONTACT US by WhatsApp Texts only at 721-588-4188 (WhatsApp is 100% free and is highly encrypted for privacy.)

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