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From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/29/24: How to Enter Our 7-Vacation Giveaway -- Details Inside; New Frontier SJU-SXM Flights Enhance Connections from Western USA & Canada; Spirit Air & JetBlue Appeal the Boston Federal Judge's NO Decision on their Merger -- Spirit Faces a Bleak Future Without It; Grounding of Boeing 737 Max 9 Planes Should End Soon, But Airlines Remain Livid at Boeing; A Brief But Stunning Comment from Rob Lightbown about the '24 Hurricane Season; MARDIS DE GRAND CASE Begins Tomorrow Night; Online Seminar on Real Estate Investing in the Caribbean (You're invited); JWMarriott; Starz City Casino; Rainbow Cafe Temporarily Closed; Planet Hollywood; [#1425 - 55 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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



Vol. 5, #1425 ---- Monday, January 29, 2024
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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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.*

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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://everythingxsm.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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Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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 2/10/2024 2/17/2024 WEEK 6 Hilton Diamond Flamingo Resort Flamingo Completely renovated deluxe studio with one bath, full kitchen, 3rd floor (arguably best beach bay view on the island) Has T.V., free wi-fi, safe. Resort has beautiful pool, 2 jacuzzi hot tubs, elevators and is within walking distance to grocery store, casino, and great restaurants. \$1800 per week +(\$50) Butch 267-467-4401 butch@cutsler.com

See them **ALL**** at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml**

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) [SALE of The Week:](#)

SALE 3/23/2024 4/6/2024 weeks 12,13 Simpson Bay resort & Casino Fixed & deeded weeks Marina PH, spacious, approx. 1700 sq ft, 1 of only 5 suites on top floor overlooking Simpson Bay; incl. parking space; Sleeps 6 w. 2 BRs, king beds and 2 twin Murphy beds; 2 full baths & 2 convenience safes; fully equipped kitchen w. stainless steel appliances, granite counters, 4 bar stools; dining table seats 6 comfortably; enclosed patio w. wet bar, convertible sofa and table/chairs seats 4; large balcony spans apt. from LR to MBR, includes hot tub; TVs in each BR and living room; Internet access available; easy access to beaches, multiple pools, tennis courts, gym, restaurants; walking distance to restaurants in Simpson Bay; willing to negotiate multiple purchase; deeply discounted from Resort resale price \$10,000 per week Pat (347) 387-2294 patc4226@gmail.com

See them **ALL**** at http://everythingsexm.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."

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

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

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

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

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret>, the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to

SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsexm.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. Frontier Adds SJU / SXM Flights, Enabling a Wider Range of Connections to SXM

Before nonstop flights from multiple US cities to SXM were offered, many passengers flew to SXM via San Juan Airport on AA. American gradually changed those flights to small, noisy ATR aircraft and later abandoned them.

Although many flights to SXM today come from large airports, it's still not easy for many people from the western US or Western Canada to get to SXM in a single day.

Frontier Airlines, the ultra low-cost carrier, may help with that thanks to its new twice-weekly service from SJU to SXM which starts early in June, just four months away (start planning your Summer vacation now.) Here is their announcement:

"We are delighted to offer this new convenient and affordable service between Saint-Martin and San Juan, which is part of our new focus on underserved and overpriced routes," said Josh Flyr, vice president of the network and operations design at Frontier Airlines. "This new service will provide a low-cost option for local residents who want to travel between the two islands and those who want to use San Juan as a connection point for traveling to and from the United States and other destinations."

Although they wrote "Saint Martin," the flights will be through the Dutch side's SXM Airport, not the small Aerodrome in Saint Martin.

2. JetBlue, Spirit Appeal Judge's NO Decision on Their Merger

JetBlue Airways Corporation ("JetBlue") (NASDAQ: JBLU) and Spirit Airlines, Inc. ("Spirit") (NYSE: SAVE) on Friday reported that they have jointly filed a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, consistent with the requirements of the merger agreement.

[This story from Reuters](#) explains why jetBlue is filing this appeal. It also shows that Spirit is \$5.5-billion in debt and losing money, thanks to high costs and its virtually untenable low-fare price model. Though the judge voted to keep the airlines separate to preserve the availability of Spirit's low prices, the reality is that Spirit is verging on bankruptcy. Because of its dreadful financial situation, the long-term continuation of Spirit's current pricing model is as likely as a disabling blizzard today in Philipsburg. The merger would be good for Spirit, jetBlue, and the flying public, we believe.

3. Fare Prices Continue to Fall

Based on anecdotal evidence from hundreds of SXM Weekly News readers and users of our [Everything SXM](#)

[Facebook Group](#), we've reported several times in recent months that fare prices have been falling, raising the eyebrows of many who long for a trip to warm SXM.

Now [CNN has formally reported what we've been seeing for months](#) -- airfare "hasn't been this cheap since 2009."

4. Some Say a Bankruptcy Filing Would be Better for Spirit

Some Wall Street analysts are saying that bankruptcy may be a better option for Spirit that trying to stay in operation should its joint appeal with jetBlue of the jetBlue / Spirit merger fail to yield the desired result. Here is [that story](#).

Both jetBlue and Spirit currently serve SXM, so the merger (or the lack thereof) could impact airlift to SXM.

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NOTE: *Subscribing is required to make you eligible to enter our enormous 7-vacation giveaway!* Publishing every week, as always!

5. Path Appears to Ending the FAA's Grounding of Boeing 737 Max 9 Planes

Of all carriers serving SXM, United Airlines has the biggest fleet of grounded 737 Max 9 aircraft, grounded because a new 737 Max 9 operated by Alaska Airlines suffered a blowout in flight of a plug built into the fuselage where an exit door is sometimes situated. That plane miraculously landed safely. United has had to cancel a number of flights since this mess started and is furious at Boeing due to Boeing's serious ongoing manufacturing quality issues. The story about the possible ending of the groundings is [here](#). See next story.

6. Peeved United Airlines Says It will Look at Airbus Instead of Boeing For Future Plane Orders

Although United Airlines at times still praises Boeing, United is clearly furious at Boeing since United is losing millions of dollars thanks to its fleet of Boeing 737 Max 9 aircraft remaining grounded, a fact blamed squarely on Boeing. Here is that [full story](#). United has hundreds of Boeing planes on order and some are five years late for delivery. Airbus is looking increasingly attractive.

7. At Boeing, Quality Appears to Get More Priority

At long last, Boeing seems to be realizing that not being focused squarely on engineering excellence and quality in manufacturing is severely crippling its business and whacking its reputation upside the head. The story about what Boeing is starting to do now to improve manufacturing quality is [here](#). It had better work or the planemaker will find itself in infinitely more serious difficulties.

8. Winair Passengers First to Use New Check-in Area for Departing Flights

The incremental opening of SXM's all-new check-in facilities began about a week ago with a Winair flight. It is now starting to be used for check-ins for all flights.

This is the Winair story, for those interested:

Passengers to Saba and St. Eustatius were in for a surprise when they were welcomed to the new check-in hall this morning by Management and Staff of Princess Juliana International Airport Operating Company N.V. (PJIAE) and Winair. Starting today, Winair's passengers will enjoy an improved check-in experience when traveling from Princess Juliana Airport (SXM). The improvements come as the next step in the reopening of the terminal building.

On hand to witness today's milestone were Hans van de Velde, CEO of Winair, the Managing Board of PJIAE, along with other staff members. Passengers were treated to a light breakfast and received a goodie bag, courtesy of Winair and PJIAE, before heading to their departure gates.

Hans van de Velde, CEO of Winair, "It is an immense pleasure that we can check-in all our passengers via this new and enhanced check-in area. We thank PJIAE for all its efforts, the close cooperation and hard work. We are happy to see the modern facilities like the self-check-in kiosks and baggage drop-off, which will improve the customer journey and we are glad we, as the national carrier, are part of this."

Brian Mingo, CEO of PJIAE, commented "We are happy to work in close co-operation with Winair. They are a true partner and we both have the same values. Improving our customers' experience is one of them. With this new check-in hall, we can serve our customers better."

Following the completion of the Departure – and Check-in area, the attention will shift to the second phase, which will be the construction of an upgraded Arrival Hall. The new Arrival Hall will provide a welcoming space for passengers, offering improved baggage handling systems, efficient immigration and customs processes, and enhanced passenger facilities. This phase aims to optimize the passenger flow and ensures a seamless transition from the aircraft to the terminal.

Construction of the Arrival Hall is anticipated to be finalized by the second quarter of 2024, in time for summer travel. Throughout the finalization of the project, PJIAE remains committed to minimizing disruptions for its employees, travelers, and other airport community members. Careful planning and coordination will be undertaken to ensure that construction activities do not hinder the airport's operations and that passengers continue to enjoy a seamless travel experience.

The phased approach to rebuilding the new terminal reflects PJIAE's dedication to upgrade towards world-class airport standards while adapting to the evolving needs of the aviation industry. This transformative project aims to position the airport as a hub of convenience, comfort, and efficiency, allowing passengers to travel with ease and confidence beyond the Caribbean region.

9. MEDICAL EVACUATION COSTS SOAR; Got \$55,000++? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medical Evacuation 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.

10. WINTER WEATHER IS HERE: 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

11. '24 Hurricane Season Outlook Still Rough: Rob Lightbown

We spoke this week with our own Chief Meteorologist Rob Lightbown, our go-to source for tropical weather information and guidance and the long-time head of [Crown Weather](#), nationally recognized experts in tropical weather analysis and forecasting.

His succinct comment: *Unfortunately it still looks like it's going to be a potentially very long and extremely active hurricane season for 2024.*

We will post complete, updated forecasts for this hurricane season as soon as they have been published.

12. Unusual Bout of Rainy, Windy Weather Impacted SXM Last Week

It was like what New Englanders call a classic nor'easter -- heavy rains causing routine street flooding and windy conditions, accompanied by rough seas and small craft warnings. Not usual late January weather in SXM, which calls for daily highs of about 84 and lows around 75. Much of it seemed to move away later in the week.

13. 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 FIVE 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.

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.

14. 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

15. Where to Rent a Beach Villa for Your Family

Some people decide to look at AirBnB or other villa rental outfits online. We have two very different suggestions.

First, a timeshare condo may be all you need. See the next article. We have hundreds of timeshares for rent and for sale on our main site, everythingsexm.com. You rent directly from timeshare owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program -- not strangers.

Second, if you still want a villa, we strongly suggest you contact the people who know the island best -- the Realtors listed below in this section. They actually know the properties they're renting and their owners. That's an enormous difference.

See the stories below for all the info you need.

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

Updated again recently, 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 a couple of weeks ago, after our server migration completed. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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®!

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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

23. Secret Site, Everythingsxm.com Updates Nearing Completion

Our first priority after migrating many gigabytes of data to our new servers (all of which work on windpower) was to thoroughly update our entire passworded "Secret" website for members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. Our simultaneous top priority was to ensure that all our timeshare rental and sales ads stay updated on our main site, everythingsxm.com.

We are delighted to report that we have now completed updating all major or frequently accessed pages in our Secret Site. Some people have used Messenger to contact us (via Jeff Berger's account, with Greg, our software guru, responding) regarding password issues which have been solved quickly through a reset. Remember: your username and password must always be all lowercase. Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. To change or recover your password, click the link in the orange login box on all pages of everythingsxm.com.

All 172 of our main EverythingSXM.com site pages have been reviewed and there too, all key or frequently accessed pages have been updated; few remain to be completed.

This has been a dedicated team effort. Final step is adding more new benefits / discounts and that step is well underway. JMB Website Supporters members can expect to receive a discounts email from us about some surprising new discounts this week. If you're not a member or would like to renew or reinstate, visit everythingsxm.com and click the page curl; it will take you to a page where you can accomplish all these things quickly and easily. **See next story.**

24. BrightPath Offers \$200 Off to JMB Website Supporters Members, \$100 Off to Everything SXM Members & Weekly News Readers (Details Below)

BrightPath Caribbean is the go-to authority for full-bore help navigating and executing the entire Dutch side residency process. Your choice is simple: do it yourself (kind of like doing brain surgery on yourself) or hire BrightPath, the recognized experts in doing this right.

BrightPath now offers both members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program and members of our Everything SXM Facebook Group discounts on this process: JMB Website Supporters members (with their current, valid JMB membership cards) get \$200 off; readers of SXM Weekly News and our Everything SXM Facebook Group get \$100 off. To join JMB Website Supporters and get this and hundreds of other benefits and discounts, click the page curl at everythingxsm.com (our main SXM site) and buy a new membership or reinstate / renew your existing membership. Do it now, while it's fresh in your mind.

To prove you are eligible for the \$100 discount, copy this story, tell BrightPath the Volume number and issue number of this edition of Weekly News -- that info is above in the masthead. **Limit: one discount per family.** These discounts are for first-time customers only and they apply only to specific services such as

1. New business incorporation
2. Private Fund Foundation
3. Residency permits for first-time applicants
4. Business bank account opening

Offer is valid one discount coupon per client and is valid and applied to new service invoices issued between January 15, 2024 to March 31, 2024. Contact Brightpath directly with your current, valid JMB Website Supporters membership card to receive that \$200 discount. See <https://www.facebook.com/brightpathcaribbean> and mention where you saw this. If you do not have a current JMB membership card, get a new JMB Website Supporters membership card at: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml.

25. Simplified New Contact Info for SkyMed Inquiries & JMB Website Supporters Members

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:

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 or text Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message. (Updated 1/14/24.)**
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters:** Please use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's **WhatsApp number, 721-588-4188, but TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application ONLY.** Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL and time zone,** since most responses are made by email. You may also phone Membership Services directly at 508-591-3483 which also accepts texts.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it freely for JMB Website Supporters membership questions. PLEASE USE THE SUBJECT "JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS".** Thank you.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

26. 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.**

27. 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

28. 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

29. ===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.]

30. SkyMed Welcomes All Couples, Singles to Apply

SkyMed, the medical evacuation membership company, has always welcomed all couples / partners as well as singles to apply for memberships. Family memberships offer significant savings over single memberships. For details on what

SkyMed offers, call, text, or email SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger at 508-591-3483 or jeff.berger@skymed.com.
Include your phone number, time zone, and best hours to contact you.

31. Make Sure Your SKYMED Membership Is Serviced Directly by SkyMed Rep / Ambassador Jeff Berger

Jeff Berger is the long-time Sky Med "Ambassador" serving thousands of Americans and Canadians who visit the Caribbean, Europe, and other destinations around the clock, around the world. The best way to learn more about SkyMed, get your questions answered, and apply is by phone with Jeff. You can arrange this directly by emailing, texting, or phoning him at jeff.berger@skymed.com and 508-591-3483 (also accepts texts). People using the 100% free WhatsApp program can also call or text Jeff via WhatsApp at 721-588-4188. SkyMed is Arizona-based and Jeff's office is in Massachusetts.

N. B.: If you signed up for SkyMed online instead of directly with Jeff, he may not be your servicing rep. To remedy that, call SkyMed toll free at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Member Services. They can make sure your membership is transferred to Jeff Berger for management; he is rep number 391330. SkyMed never closes, but their business office operates regular hours and works on Mountain Standard Time year-round.

32. 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 1/6/23

**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 12/4/23

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL READERS:

Our still-underway server migration (see story above) temporarily prevented some SXM Weekly News Subscribers from entering the giveaway. The migration has progressed as planned and the entry system is usually operating perfectly. Read the prize list and you should be able to enter now through the link in this story. If you have any issues, try again tomorrow, when another phase of our Migration will have been completed.

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;
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 **Kasprowski Publisher** AND their map of the entire Caribbean. See more at www.midok.com . Also available on Amazon.

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](#). (Best time to enter would be late this evening.)

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

33. We Welcome Your Comments on Our Stories; How & Where to Comment

If you ever have comments on any stories published here in *SXM Weekly News*, please post them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), to which many *Weekly News* readers also belong. We welcome your comments.

34. Mardis de Grand Case Starts Tomorrow

"Mardi," the big Harmony Nights (Tuesday Nights) street fair in Grand Case, was set to start a week ago tomorrow night (Tuesday) in Grand Case, but was postponed. Some people thought the reason was construction on Blvd. de Grand Case, but the reality was that funding and financial assistance from the Collectivite had been the issue. Those issues as of this writing on Saturday have been resolved so Mardiis will start tomorrow, January 30, and continue on Tuesday evenings through the winter (Tuesday/Mardi).

We will post further news in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), to which many *Weekly News* readers also belong.

35. Is Caribbean Real Estate a Wise Investment? Your Invitation to Register Online

Several knowledgeable folks from South Florida along with BrightPath Caribbean's Vivian Chamas as Moderator discuss this often-asked question in a **free** online seminar early next month. **WE URGE EVERYONE WHO HAS INTEREST IN BUYING PROPERTY / ESTABLISHING RESIDENCE IN SXM TO LEARN MUCH MORE ABOUT THIS TOPIC BY REGISTERING FOR THIS IMPORTANT SEMINAR.** Click [this link](#) to register.

Many of your questions will be answered by this highly focused Florida-based group!

36. Rental Car Vehicles & Maps In Short Supply: How to Solve This Issue

If you intend to rent a car in SXM, RESERVE IT NOW -- there is a shortage of cars due to extraordinary demand and "walk-ins" cannot always easily be accommodated. Also we're hearing there's a shortage of the minimalist maps some car rentals give customers, so we urge you to get the best island maps before you come here from www.midok.com,

Kasprowski Publisher. We've recommended them for more than 15 years; the maps are meticulously detailed and are superb --and they can also be used as wall hangings.

37. Starz City Casino, JW Marriott Appear to be Moving Closer to Reopening

The Starz City Casino, destroyed by Irma in 2017, is a hub of activity now. Help wanted ads and bright animated electronic billboards are already up, and inside work seems to be moving quickly. No reopening announcement has been made and calls to the owners have not been answered...but we're watching this and will keep you posted.

Meanwhile, the JWMarriott Resort still seems to be closing in on opening in Dawn Beach. Formerly the Westin, it has taken more than 6 years for this property to approach full reopening, which had been announced for late last year.

We don't know when it will actually reopen and we wouldn't be surprised if its operators don't know either. Nonetheless, we'll continue to watch both of these projects & keep you posted.

38. Planet Hollywood Site: Nothing Doing

Plans to construct a Planet Hollywood were announced after the Sonesta Great Bay Hotel was sold to the hospitality arm of a Canadian airline. Shortly after, the Sonesta Great Bay was obliterated by Hurricane Irma, and a local resident went to fight the project in court. Then came Covid -- and the investors who were planning on Planet Hollywood reportedly decided to put their money elsewhere. So that property is vacant, as is most of the property where the once famous and glittering Mullet Bay Beach Resort once stood until it, too, was bludgeoned by Hurricane Luis in 1995...closing in on 30 years ago.

A new government is taking shape after parliamentary elections here. Our guess is that those two properties, along with what's left of Ocean Club in Cupecoy (also obliterated by Irma in 2017) are likely to look no different four years from now when the next election is scheduled.

We hope we are wrong. The island needs to leverage those prime properties for the good of the island economy -- provided it upgrades infrastructure at the same time. It can do all this if it seriously promotes tourism as Aruba has for many years. .

39. SXM Weekly News' "From" Address Expected to Change

For mailing efficiency reasons, we expect to change the "From" address used to send you SXM Weekly News. That address has been jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com. We expect that to change shortly to jeff1620@everythingstmaarten.com, reflecting that it is a key part of our everythingxsm.com site. Please add that email address to your email addressbook, to ensure that you will be receiving each issue on a timely basis. Thanks...

40. Icon of the Seas, World's Largest Cruise Ship (7600 passengers) Visits SXM Feb. 13

Launched just a few weeks ago, Royal Caribbean's Icon of the Seas will make its maiden voyage to SXM on February 13. It is currently the largest cruise ship on the planet, carrying 7600 passengers and a crew of thousands. Much more on this massive ship is [here](#).

41. 6th Caribbean Multihull Challenge Set to Kick off; Regatta Excitement Begins

It begins February 1 and runs through February 4. Here's more:

In early 2018 Robbie Ferron; a founder of the Sint Maarten Yacht Club (founded 1980) and the Heineken Regatta convened a small meeting with SMYC members Stephen Burzon and Petro Jonker to discuss the creation of a new regatta to be held in Sint Maarten and the surrounding NE Caribbean that would be dedicated exclusively to multihull sailing yachts.

Robbie pointed out the rapid growth of catamaran and trimaran sailing vessels in the Caribbean and described the future growth of this category of pleasure yachts as remarkable and robust.

The three formed a Steering Committee for what would be called the Caribbean Multihull Challenge (CMC) with Petro as event chair, Steve as marketing and operations chair, and Robbie as chair of the event sailing committee. Then forthwith...we presented the idea to the Board of the Sint Martin Yacht Club and received enthusiastic approval to move ahead.

The CMC is important to yacht racing as prior to this event all major regattas included both monohulls and multihulls in their starts and courses; and we believed that by mixing both hull types the true qualities and excitement of multi-hull racing was lost. Plus, by holding a multihull only regatta; owners, captains, and crews of these unique boats could assemble, bond, and celebrate their community. The first event was held in February of 2019 and was an acclaimed success. In 2020 the second event hosted 20 entries; up from the original 12 in 2019. From the beginning impressive sponsors such as Oris Swiss Watches, Mount Gay Rum, Moorings Yacht Charter, Port De Plaisance Marina and Resort, the Multihull Company, and Caribbean Multihull Yacht Brokerage jumped in and enjoyed great brand building.

In the unfortunate Covid year of 2021, CMC III was held with mostly local boats participating. Lockdowns, event restrictions, and an overall constriction on flights caused the 2021 regatta to be quite subdued. But it did take place and those that participated had a great time. CMC IV held on 4,5,6 February 2022 began to build the momentum for this event again; with CMC V on the first weekend of February 2023 breaking new records with entries jumping 80% to 33 boats. This was the year where we introduced a cruising rally for multihull skippers who do not want to race could join in regatta fun. Also, in 2023 we added three distance races for CSA 1 boats where the speed of large multihulls could cover great distances in only a few hours.

Looking ahead to our sixth annual, we are adding a fourth day for racing and cruising – adding an overnight in St. Barth's to the rally schedule. Henceforth the event will be known as the Caribbean Multihull Challenge Race and Rally™.

For more information, [go here](#). The above was excerpted from the Multihull Challenge Website.

42. St. Maarten Pride Foundation Decries How Construction Companies are Dumping Project Debris Wherever...

From Environmental Group St. Maarten Pride Foundation:

Truckers working construction sites continue to dump their construction waste material anywhere they seem fit. VROMI department and their inspection department does not have a grip on the affairs of the environment, residents health, quality of life, and the welfare of animals.

This location is the pond behind Westin hotel at Dawn Beach, while it is a man made pond, there are many ducks, and other birds that make it their habitat. These pictures were sent in by a nearby resident who has noted that the pond smells like oil has turned green with algae and the ducks have disappeared.

Our Philipsburg landfill charges nothing to bring trash and construction debris to the landfill. How can we get a grip on this? Will a new government and Minister of VROMI make changes we can see and feel better about?

43. Rainbow Cafe is Shut Down for 30 Days

The shutdown started January 19 and should end 30 days later. It was reportedly enforced by the Collectivite and relates to paperwork regarding employees, sources told *SXM Weekly News*.

44. \$200 and \$100 Discounts Offered on BrightPath Services Through our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, our Everything SXM Facebook Group, and SXM Weekly News

These discounts are for first-time BrightPath customers and apply only to specific services including:

1. New business incorporation
2. Private Fund Foundation
- 3. Residency permits for first-time applicants**
4. Business bank account opening

Offer is valid **one discount coupon per client** and is valid and applied to new service invoices issued between January 15, 2024 to March 31, 2024. The \$200 discount applies exclusively to current members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program (current membership card is REQUIRED and is subject to verification), and \$100 discount applies to SXM Weekly News readers and Everything SXM FB Group members. SXM Weekly News readers should print this article and send it to BrightPath on Request. Other details may apply. Much more information is available [here](#).

45. 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 (negotiable) 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.

46. JEWELER OF THE WEEK: Returns Next Week

Previously featured in this series:

- 1) **Caribbean Gems** (Manu, Neelam, & Krish Budhrani)
- 2) **Oro Diamante** (Raju & Jenny Budhrani)
- 3) **Zhaveri Luxury** (Deepu Budhrani)
- 4) **Shoppers Haven** (Vishnu Thadhani)
- 5) **Majesty Jewelers** (Ashok Aswani)
- 6) **Royal Jewelers** (Vince and Rakhee Sakhrani)
- 7) **Ray's Jewelers** (Stephen & Monisha Jandial)
- 8) **Joe's Jewelry**

Next week: Joe's Jewelry.

47. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika

It doesn't matter whether you like Thai or have yet to try it. It doesn't matter whether you love hot, spicy food or if BLAND is your flavor. Whether you are a carnivore, vegetarian, pescetarian, or omnivore, Avantika is a restaurant you must not miss.

Situated on the second floor of Puerta del Sol across Welfare Road from the former home of Toppers on the Dutch side, Avantika has a substantial menu which lets you combine ingredients to build exactly the dinner selections that most excite your palate. There is an excellent assortment of highly creative appetizers followed by almost countless mains of different types -- you'll understand this when you see their menu. Spice lovers will love their homemade hot sauce -- but those who like bland, no worries, you can get it with just the pure, natural flavors of their delicious food. The bar is highly creative and always busy too.

It is high season. Avantika is BUSY so we strongly recommend advance reservations.

Next week: Another fine SXM restaurant.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 1/29/24) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best Thai; Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Excellent portion size. Consistently excellent overall. Go...you'll become a regular.

Secret Seafood (featured 1/14/24) on Simpson Bay Road a few hundred feet north of the Simpson Bay police station right on Simpson Bay Beach, has a huge lobster tank (hundreds are looking forward to meeting you) plus a spectrum of fish freshly caught in local waters by owner Keith Joseph's own boats. Excellent food, great service, generous portions, and very reasonable prices. See their site [here](#).

ROMA at Oasis, Maho, (featured 1/8/24) offers Italian Fine Dining (and authentic brick oven pizza) 7 days a week. Reservations are essential during high season since ROMA is busy every night. Led by Italian-born chef Marco Ferrante, the restaurant is busy, the staff is attentive, and the food is outstanding. Convenient valet parking at Casino Royale next door. Highly recommended.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, (featured 1/1/24): Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 12/25/23] 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. Absolutely NOT to be missed!

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 12/16/23). Now open every day but Monday for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining, excellent service, unpretentious setting.

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 12/11/2023) 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? ***It's our favorite beach on the entire island -- and the famous Lemondroppers arrive in early January and stick around until mid February. Come and meet them and enjoy Dany's....***

Bamboo House (12/4/23), 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/>

LaPlaj Beach Bar at La Samanna Resort, a Belmond Hotel (featured 11/27/23)

<https://www.belmond.com/hotels/north-america/caribbean/st-martin/belmond-la-samanna/dining>: Extraordinary service, an innovative and creatively superior menu, and a gorgeous setting on the Caribbean are the reasons for going. This is an unparalleled experience, with a fine dining version of a beach bar. Great place. Call for reservations.

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. (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.**

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.

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.

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.

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!**

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>

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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48. 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.

49. 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...**

Why get annual or multiyear memberships? SHORT-TERM family memberships (for a week or two) are now

\$18/day, while **guaranteed renewable for life, price guaranteed for life annual and multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day** -- less than a cup of coffee. Call me at 508-747-8281 or jeff.berger@skymed.com for answers to questions or to sign up by phone.

Available exclusively to Americans and Canadians. SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become seriously ill or injured while traveling in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is also available through GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, part of the SkyMed group.

50. 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.

51. 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.

52. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 1/8/24)

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.

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental

SixT Car Rental

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.

FISHING CHARTERS

Taylor Made fishing charters, Captain Dougie. Full day or half day Call WhatsApp # 721-524-7510

Rudy's Deep-Sea Fishing

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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)

[Shoppers Haven](#)

Royal Jewelers

Kay's Fine Jewelry

Joe's Jewelry International

Ballerina Jewelers

Alpha Jewels

Diamonds International

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MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

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Patty Healing Hands WhatsApp number:+1(721)5230368 E mail: pattyhealinghands@gmail.com

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:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Mary's Boon Beach Hotel

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

40 Weeks

Wedding Planners / Wedding Venues

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

Sint Maarten Marry-Me Destination Weddings (new)

Updated 1/8/24

53. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingxsm.com 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.

54. 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.

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

SXM Weekly News, our everythingSXM.com website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.

Our **JMB SXM Web Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

Tourism is returning in a big way and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases in the months ahead. Contact us today for more information.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See www.everythingsxm.com/secret. Your username and password are required.

SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 7/2017

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

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

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

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.)

1/29/24 #V5-1425 600 pm AST 1/28 | [Terms of use](#) |

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