

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/9/18: Beryl; Preclearance Update; FAA Stumbles on Cabin Safety; Simpson Bay Resort's Recovery; Spiga; Busby's & Daniel's; Ziplines; Vacation Giveaway Ending; The Answer to Why [28 news stories]

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Vol. 2, #1159 --- Monday, July 9, 2018
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored send-only email address. For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#) at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 306,000 people around the world...

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



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

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- **US Customs / Immigration Preclearance Moving Ahead**
- **FAA's Bizarre Decision About Plane Cabin Safety**
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-- "WHY?" You Asked; Here's the Answer

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-- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors

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-- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

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28 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

FLOATING WEEK 6/1/2018 12/8/2018 Week 2 **Simpson Bay Resort & Marina** Saturday to Saturday 1 bed with King Bed, Full Kitchen and 1 Bath, two Murphy beds. Unit sleeps 4. Refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker. Unit WiFi, 2 flatscreen TV's, private balcony overlooking Ocean or Bay. On premises: fitness center, pools, great beach, water sports, grocery store, nightclub, casino, restaurants. Unit location may vary depending on week you want. \$950 Alan 603-520-0976 aklsp@metrocast.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/9/2019 3/30/2019 13-Oct **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort** Sleep 6, Floor 4, close to Marina building. Master suite can be used as sleep 4 with junior suite as lock off unit. Stay in one unit and rent out the other! Beautiful view of Simpson Bay with restaurants, jewelry store, casino, and grocery available on the resort and other restaurants available within walking distance. Balcony has full afternoon shade, perfect way to end your day on the beach. \$17,000 per week Deborah 412-952-7577 d_henle@msn.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

This Week's Stories

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"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Site:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsxm.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 There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Tropical Storm Beryl Threatens SXM, Weakens As It Arrives

Tropical Storm Beryl formed late last week in the central tropical Atlantic, briefly strengthening to hurricane status as it headed toward the central and northern Leeward Islands.

Fortunately, wind conditions hostile to tropical storm intensification dominated weather near SXM, and Beryl became a "remnant" storm before landing in the central Leeward Islands Sunday night. Earlier on Sunday, both the French and Dutch Sides took down their former Tropical Storm Watches, since the very small storm was more than 100 miles to the South.

Eventually, the remnants of Beryl are expected to be in the Bahamas where, the National Hurricane Center says, they must be watched for possible regeneration.

For more information, see numerous satellite images in the Weather Center at everythingsxm.com. You will find lots more at Rob Lightbown's Crown Weather website, CrownWeather.com, with current info from him and us on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

2. US Customs / Immigration Preclearance Moving Ahead

An article published in the SXM *Daily Herald* last week suggested that efforts to set up US Customs and Immigration Preclearance are bogged down by government delays. That's not true, says Ravi Daryanani, CFO and acting CEO of SXM Airport. Here are his exact comments: "Government, PJIAE [SXM Airport -Ed.] and CBP continue to work closely together to have a preclearance facility a reality on Sint Maarten. There are no delays or stalling of talks."

3. SXM Airport Roof Waterproofing Completed

The first step in the complete reconstruction of SXM Airport's roof -- waterproofing -- has now been completed. When all three steps have been completed in November of this year, the roof will be able to withstand future storms including even the most severe Category 5 storms, like Irma. Here's [the story](#).

4. What's the Difference Between Leeward & Windward Islands?

When hearing news about the movement of storms during hurricane season, you'll hear references to both the Windward and Leeward islands.

Both groups of islands are part of the "Lesser Antilles" (the "Greater Antilles" are Cuba and Hispaniola). The Windward islands are farther East and South, and they get Northeastern tradewinds. The Leeward Islands are the northern Lesser Antilles and are a bit farther west than (and north of) the Windwards. The Windwards begin around Dominica and Martinique and include islands farther south.

You'll find more specifics online.

5. Cruise Ship Passenger Numbers Exceed Projections by 15%

In what turned out to be surprisingly good news from Port St. Maarten, cruise ship passengers numbers so far this year have exceeded relatively modest projections by some 15%, a nice surprise.

As we've noted here, cruise ship passenger reactions to SXM have been very positive — not far from the neighborhood where passenger ratings of the island have been for the last several years.

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SUMMER MEMBERSHIP SALE

***** ENDS SOON *****

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Many Other Island Benefits,

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Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership Today:

New JMB memberships: One year \$44, THREE yrs \$79 and *BEST* SIX years \$139

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

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One yr. \$33; THREE yrs \$73; *BEST* 6 years \$123

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

6. Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get.

The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

7. Get The Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Around The World

[SkyMed Travel](#) offers you a **110% Lowest Rate Guarantee** for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide.

You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through *SkyMed Travel*.

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):

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.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% 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 here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.

You won't be disappointed.

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

8. Simpson Bay Resort To Be Fully Operational By Sept

The complete story is [here](#).

9. Updated List of SXM's Top Timeshare Resorts

A page on our everythingSXM.com website reviews the top timeshare resorts on SXM. It was updated last month, but lots of breaking news on the island prevented us from telling you about the update. If you're considering buying a timeshare on the island or renting one out from the timeshare owner or the resort, [this page](#) will help you.

10. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Villa Rentals

Available

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, Simpson Bay Resort, and now Oyster Bay Beach Resort as well -- timeshare owners are posting units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on [everythingSXM.com](#) and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on [everythingxm.com](#). Check them out: they were heavily revised during each of the last four weeks.

11. Leverage Our Timeshare Calendar

Our [everythingSXM.com](#) website includes hundreds of 2018 and 2019 condo rentals at timeshares across the island, timeshare weeks for sale, and villa rentals.

As we've reported, we recently updated the Timesharing Calendar on the rentals page of our site to cover all years through 2024; for those of you who wish to plan well in advance. It's a great resource when you're trying to nail down dates for future trips.

Thanks to Simpson Bay Resort for supplying this calendar, which we believe applies to most resorts. Check with your resort to verify that these dates apply to you. The link to the calendar is in the first several paragraphs on our timeshare rentals page.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

12. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

This section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB.

We now offer about 300 discounts (including some now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming months as we continue to roll out a number of entirely new discounts and benefits.

We recently started adding new discounts and benefits. Please stay tuned; special messages will be sent to all JMB Website Supporters members as more new benefits are rolled out.

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

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

13. Major Airport Special Edition: Where To Download It

Late last month, we published a major special edition of *SXM Weekly News* concerning SXM Airport. It contained huge news regarding the latest terminal reopening plans; the addition of more flights between US points of embarkation and SXM, including new airlines; information about new gates coming to the airport; and information about preclearance for US customs and immigration which, the airport formally announced in our interview, will be coming — and when.

If you missed our Special Edition, it has now been posted in our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives, [here](#).

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

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One yr., \$33; THREE yrs., \$73; 6 yrs., \$123
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

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14. Last Call for Evacuees To Reclaim Left-Behind Luggage, But...

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Shortly after hurricane Irma ravaged SXM almost 10 months ago, transport planes from US Air National Guard bases brought thousands of Americans from the otherwise then-unusable SXM Airport to San Juan, from which they were able to make connections home. The problem was that virtually all of the passengers' luggage could not be evacuated, so it just stayed there.

Although we later ran several stories telling people how they could reclaim their luggage, not everyone subscribes to *SXM Weekly News* — so hundreds of suitcases sat in the terminal — many of them wet from the effects of Irma and Maria.

There they have sat, ever since, although the owners of a number of suitcases had been identified and the owners paid for the return of the suitcases. *Now the airport is saying that owners must reclaim any remaining suitcases or they will be disposed of.*

Please feel free to pass along this story... The specific language is:

"The Princess Juliana International Airport hereby requests the persons who were evacuated between September 8 and October 8, 2017 and have not yet claimed their bags to come forward. Person should contact the marketing and customer service department via email at mcd@sxmairport.com with a description of the contents and bag i.e. color,

size, hard or soft case, brand, etc. if possible to send along a picture of the bag. The deadline to reclaim bags is Friday, July 13, 2018. Bags not claimed by the mentioned date will be disposed of by the airport."

The bad news: since the suitcases have been sitting in the airport for many months, after being in a very wet environment where mold existed, your suitcases may not be worth reclaiming. It's up to you to decide whether you want to go ahead; we just wanted to ensure that you have the information to enable you to decide.

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or call Jeff for answers to questions

during normal office hours, Eastern time:

508-747-8281

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

15. FAA's Bizarre Decision About Plane Cabin Safety

Remember when American Airlines late in the 1990s ran TV ads showing rows of seats being removed from its cabins and touted, "more room in coach"? When the airline industry in particular and the economy in general were stunned after the 9/11 attacks, airlines had to pull back on a number of initiatives popular with airline travelers. Among the things that went away in those days was comfortable coach seating in aircraft flown by legacy carriers, including American.

American never advertised less room in coach, but that's what happened. Other airlines, like Spirit for example, took it to extremes, with what has been described as the least comfortable passenger cabins in any US aircraft.

There have been so many complaints that the Federal Aviation Administration looked into the ability of passengers to be safely evacuated within the required 90 seconds. After completing its examination, the FAA declared everything was fine and that it would not prevent airlines and aircraft manufacturers from making seats even smaller and less comfortable than they are now.

It is fair to say that millions of passengers on airlines in America have expressed resentment, anger, discomfort, and other things in response to today's Sardine-can like passenger cabins. Airlines are saying they are adding seats to many aircraft but that the change will be hardly noticeable since they're making all the new seats much thinner than they were before, though airlines doing this insist that the seats will be as comfortable as those they replace.

The comfortableness of the new skinny seats aside, it's passenger safety that most passengers are most concerned with and that is precisely where the FAA has made an unfathomable, arrogant, anti-consumer, and witless decision about the safe evacuation of airplanes.

None of the tests that we know about or that we have seen through news reports utilize a statistically correct sampling of actual airline passengers. Such a realistic passenger cross-section is essential to determining whether the samples accurately reflect real-world conditions or whether they are simply figments of the testers' imaginations. Instead, those running these tests have hired young, slim, fit people for the tests when a more realistic cross-section would make sure that the majority of people being tested was overweight, slower than young people, and more than likely would stop to take carry-on luggage with them, no matter what flight crews say — that, too, did not happen during testing.

Therefore, the FAA's decision is based on fiction, not fact. Since it's essential for passengers to be evacuated from airplanes within 90 seconds in an emergency, something that will be very difficult to achieve with an actual cross-section of real passengers, it is clear that FAA's conclusion does nothing to help ensure expeditious evacuations. In fact, the FAA's decision makes the situation aboard aircraft far more dangerous than it was or needs to be.

We are attempting to find out how you can express your opinion about this and get the FAA to do its job. As soon as we have that information, we'll pass it along, both here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

16. Yorks Win Beach Bar Suit Against MBBR/Sun Resorts

SXM courts in several recent instances have sided with "little guys" fighting bigger companies. This is an interesting [example](#) related to the Yorks working at Mullet Bay Beach.

17. Reminder: Spiga Closes July 21, Reopens October

Spiga -- one of SXM's very best restaurants -- takes a very well deserved seasonal vacation starting July 21. They will reopen in October.

Does your vacation happen when Spiga is closed? Horrors -- but there are two possible solutions...

a) Immediately schedule another vacation for after they reopen. That way you won't even think of retiring crestfallen into the nearest broom closet.

b) Cancel your vacation and reschedule it for after they reopen. Nah, we don't like this idea, and neither do you: the more you can come to your favorite island, the better.

18. Visit SXM Now to Get Away from Sweltering Summer Weather

If you're getting tired of nonstop sweltering weather in most of the US, we'd like to suggest that you visit SXM this summer and cool off.

The weather in SXM during the summer is moderated by soothing tradewinds and is cooled, relatively, by the 80° ocean waters which surround it. In addition, the humidity in SXM is much lower than it is across much of the US.

There are other advantages of summer vacations in SXM: few if any crowds; low, off-season pricing for accommodations; ideal weather, especially now in July and August; and no crowds on the beaches or in the restaurants.

Plus, jewelry stores may be more willing than usual to bargain; they need the sales.

What's not to love about coming to SXM in the summer when you can really cool off and relax?

Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See getskymed.com. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

19. What Happened to Mr. Busby's & Daniel's by the Sea?

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and its nighttime incarnation Daniel's by the Sea, long one of the island's top Italian restaurants, were essentially obliterated by Irma, as was the Great House, the apartment building next door. That extensive property and what's left of the buildings are for sale for USD\$7.6-million. The properties had withstood numerous previous hurricanes but Irma was too much for them.

If you're seriously interested in these properties -- which are sandwiched between Oyster Bay Beach Resort and Coral Beach Club -- let us know and we'll forward your inquiry to the owner.

20. Ziplines in SXM

SXM is certainly moving in the direction of expanding its visitor base. It would like to see some younger visitors — and it has been quietly putting together attractions which would be of interest to them. On the French side, ziplines have existed for years at Loterie farm, ground zero for eco-travel on the island. See much more about Loterie farm [here](#).

Rainforest adventures, on the Dutch side near the new Carrefour market (formerly Le Grand Marché) has lots to recommend it, including the steepest zipline you're likely to find anywhere. Much more about Rainforest Adventures, which just opened at the end of last year, is [here](#).

21. An SXM Insurance Company's Solvency is Questioned

SXM insurance companies have had a particularly rocky road ever since hurricane Irma nearly obliterated the island 10 months ago.

The Dutch Side's most widely used insurance company, Nagico, has been widely castigated for what its policyholders said were inadequate responses to legitimate claims and to claims payment offers that its policyholders said offered not much more than pennies on the dollar. Now, yet another insurance company, Ennia, is coming under very close government scrutiny in several jurisdictions. See the details [here](#).

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SUMMER MEMBERSHIP SALE

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

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One yr., \$33; THREE yrs., \$73; 6 yrs., \$123
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

22. Anguilla's Blowing Point Ferry Area To Be Improved

Of all of the neighboring islands visited by SXM tourists, Anguilla probably sees a majority of them. The inexpensive and convenient (and frequent) small ferries from the dock at the Marigot waterfront make quick trips back-and-forth several times daily.

When you arrive, you encounter a small but efficient ferry terminal outside of which is a fair amount of disorganization.

That will soon become a thing of the past, as the area outside the terminal gets a much-needed extensive makeover. Here are [details](#).

23. Vacation Giveaway Ending Friday July 13th: Enter Today

Almost over -- you must enter by Friday July 13.

Here is our current prize list. Since this giveaway promotes non high-season visits to SXM, most of these vacations are yours from mid April to mid December, 2018, though for obvious reasons those dates will change. All vacations are subject to availability. Drawing is expected to be held later this Summer.

-- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at **La Vista Resort**, May through December 2018.

-- a 5 night stay (based upon availability April 10-Dec 18, 2018) in an ocean front room at the **Westin St Maarten Dawn Beach Resort, Spa, and Casino**.

-- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful **Oyster Bay Beach Resort**.

-- Dinner for Two at Davide Foini's legendary **IZI Ristorante Italiano** in Simpson Bay (One winner)

-- Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's **Isola Ristorante Italiano** next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort. (One winner)

-- Dinner for Two at **Spiga**, the highly acclaimed Italian Restaurant in Grand Case. (One winner.)

Enter here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

Dates for all vacations subject to change thanks to Irma....

24. "WHY?" You Asked; Here's the Answer

My wife and I were returning from dinner with friends in Grand Case several years back, when my wife suddenly felt hot and had breathing difficulty.

It got worse, when she nearly passed out as we approached Sapphire Beach Club and I immediately asked for an ambulance to be called. She was hot one minute, cold the next.

I thought it might be a stroke because she had trouble talking. The ambulance arrived quickly, walked through what we had for dinner, and after a tortuous hour trying to figure out what had happened, she started feeling better and declined a visit to the hospital.

Only some time later, back home, did we find out she has a severe allergy to a certain cheese -- and that had triggered the entire episode.

Although it was a relief, it was also the first time that I realized *talking* about medical evacuation wasn't enough -- it was about 14 years ago and that scare is what made me buy what I had recommended for the prior two years to others, but had never bought myself. It scared me into realizing that anything can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

A number of readers have asked me over the years why, exactly, do I talk about SkyMed medical evacuation protection. An emergency trip home on a medevac jet today could easily cost upwards of \$50,000 payable in cash in advance -- *without* SkyMed. No money, no medevac jet home. From overseas, the cost can easily be twice that. Now you know why I've been a bit evangelical about it: it really is a remarkably big deal.

Please allow me a few very quick facts:

First, there is **no age limit** to buy SkyMed; you can apply at any age. Pre-existing conditions are covered at once on short-term memberships, and after a short 90-day waiting period on annual and longer memberships.

Second, annual and multi-year SkyMed memberships are **guaranteed renewable** as long as you like, regardless of advancing age or declining health. You just pay your renewals on time.

Third, **SkyMed memberships don't get more expensive as you get older or have illness issues;**

everyone pays the same reasonable rates. SkyMed won't cancel your membership or increase its cost just because you've reached a certain age, either. Keep it until you're 109 if you like.

Fourth, basic coverage "Takes You Home" when you travel in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Available global coverage includes the rest of the world except places on the State Department "watch list" (North Korea, for example.)

Fifth, SkyMed delivers far more than just medical evacuations. Its entire list of all key Features & Benefits is here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

Sixth, JMB Website Supporters members get **substantial discounts** on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you're not a JMB member when you call, we'll sign you up on the spot, if you like, giving you instant access to discounts available only to our JMB Website Supporters members. (More on JMB membership is on our site, everythingxm.com; JMB has over 300 SXM discounts and many other benefits.)

For still more info, please see our SkyMed site, getskymed.com.

We can answer all your questions; call us any day or evening up to 8 pm EDT at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only please). If you're ready to protect yourself and your family, we can take your application by phone -- usually in under 10 minutes.

Please do it now. Everything can change in a heartbeat.

Here are examples of SkyMed in action:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. *SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.* That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

Anything can happen anywhere. Call Jeff at 508-747-8281.

To Sum Up - Many Special Features:

- a) **SkyMed Takes You Home®**. Others in their fine print say they take you home or to the nearest appropriate facility, at their option; that could be thousands of miles from home.
- b) **No age limit to apply**. No age limit for services.
- c) **Pre-existing conditions covered in full** after only 90 days for one-year and longer memberships, and immediately for short-term memberships.
- d) **Guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or health changes** (applies to annual and multiyear memberships).
- e) **No membership price increases due solely to advancing age or declining health**. You pay what everyone pays.
- f) **Ten-year price guarantee for five-year Ultimate SkyMed memberships**: When you apply for a five-year SkyMed Ultimate membership and indicate "renew automatically" on your application, you are guaranteed the same price upon renewal that you paid when joining. The SkyMed Ultimate, which is prepaid for five years at inception, currently offers more features and benefits than SkyMed's annual memberships (see details in our [list of benefits](#)) at a highly advantageous annual cost. SkyMed Annual memberships have no price guarantee (though their price has been unchanged for several years). Jet fuel price spikes can affect the cost of Annual memberships. But with the Ultimate's 10-year price guarantee, you're solid no matter what.

Where to Get Answers To Your Questions: Call SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger any weekday or evening (EDT) at 508-747-8281. He can answer all your questions and even complete an application with you in about 10 minutes. Often, you'll have SkyMed's reply in one or two business days. You can also email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com or jeff@jmbcommunications.com (with the subject SkyMed); please include your phone number and area code.

SkyMed Takes You Home®: What else matters?

25. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Next Level Car Rental (just joined)

CIGARS HAND-MANUFACTURED ON SXM:

[Das Cigars](#)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#) (New)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS::

[SkyMed International](#) (Scottsdale, Az.)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Little Europe Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

Caribbean Gems

Oro Diamante

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES:

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A 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 Site*.

RESORTS:

Simpson Bay Resort

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS:

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

VILLA 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 Site*. 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 Site*.

6/17/18

26. Use Our Just-Updated Weekly News Archives

Our just-updated *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published in the last four years, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and our SXM Airport Special Edition, which has a great deal of useful future information on what's going to happen at the airport.

Check it out [here](#).

27. Restaurant of the Week: Returns Next Week

Coming soon: **Domino's**

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 7/2/18) Skipjack's main dining deck overlooking the lagoon was wrecked by Irma and is being rebuilt. They should be open late 2018.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 6/25/17; added 1/17) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (6/18/18) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

Rum & Peas (featured 6/11/18) is the newly iconic island hotspot for island flavors and lots more. It's the creation of Sherman Marten (Canoa) and one of his top managers is Laurel Victor (Lulu from Mr. Busbys). Come soon, you will not be disappointed.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured June 4 2018) is the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/28/18) Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood casino in the middle of Simpson Bay Resort was one of the first restaurants to reopen soon after Irma struck, and it has been open ever since. It is now also fully enclosed and fully air conditioned - no street noise.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 5/21/18) David is back and the restaurant has reopened. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too. Now open for lunch and dinner.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 5/14/18) Avantika is open. SXM's best Thai.

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 4/30/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 4/9/18) Reopened as Cafe Spiga, new menu; redesigned. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food.

Celine 3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it enters service soon. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 5/1/17). Big Fish has closed. We do not have any word on whether Mike and Teresa will be reopening.

Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 6/5/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 4/10/17) Canoa has established a gofundme campaign to help it rebuild. We have no information on timing, but our guess is probably late 2018, or later.

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16). The Maho area was hit very badly by Irma and Pizza Pasta has closed permanently. Selena has moved to St. Kitts where her mom, Ilde, and dad, Dario, operate their Ciao restaurant.

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 8/14/17) Wrecked by Irma. Closed permanently and for sale.

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16 Just got insurance settlement, not yet reopened.

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14) Stone is permanently closed.

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15) Believed permanently closed and likely for sale. We'll post quickly if we hear anything else.

Temptation, <http://www.temptation-sxm.com/> (featured 7/5/17) Permanently closed. Dino has now relocated to Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, which will be featured here soon.

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 7/10/17) Open now for lunch and dinner.

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/26/17) Wrecked by Irma, closed permanently, for sale.

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/19/17) Wrecked by Irma. Closed permanently and for sale.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/31/17) Reopened.

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017) Reopened. Their sign blew away in Irma -- to Virgin Gorda's airport 192 miles away.
FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse Had closed permanently before Irma hit.
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Recently reopened.
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 1/22/18). Reopened. Now open Wed through Sunday B/L/D.
Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/27/17) Reopened quickly.
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.
Bylbos, Simpson Bay Not yet known.

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 Site](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

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a unit of JMB Communications.

28. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our everythingSXM.com website and its Hurricane Center, and our everything SXM Facebook site — 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 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. If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly. Summer is here 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 throughout this year and into 2019. Contact us today for more information.

**Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.**

That's a 10-year price guarantee. **More benefits... same price.**

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See getskymed.com.

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

***2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale* are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from 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.*

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact support@jmbcommunications.com

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

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

07/09/18 #V2-1159 6:00 p.m. EDT 7/8/18 8.4

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