

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 28

Sorrento Yacht Club Records

1925-1991

5 volumes and 2 folders
2 linear feet
Accession No. LB1991.82, .207

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 28

Sorrento Yacht Club Records

Sorrento Yacht Club

Records, 1925-1991

Five volumes and two folders (2 linear feet)

Yacht club in Sorrento, Maine.

Records from the Sorrento Yacht Club, dating from the Club's organization in 1925 though the late 1970s. These include annual minutes, club by-laws and racing rules, race results and rankings, lists of members and their boats, and specifications for Wee Scots, Mercury class sloops, and Flying Fifteens, the principle one-design classes supported by the club. Material is fairly complete for the first fifty years of the club's operation.

In English.

Sturgis Haskins; Gift; 1991; LB1991.82, .207

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Sorrento Yacht Club (Sorrento, Me.)

Sorrento (Me.)

Sailboat racing

Sailboats

Yacht racing

Yachts

Acquisition:

This collection was donated to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Sturgis Haskins, a native of Sorrento, Maine and an active member of the Sorrento Yacht Club.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions.

Condition:

The collection is mostly in good condition, though individual sheets are working loose from binders and, where larger than the covers, are often significantly battered. Metal fasteners and plastic covers are still in place, and may become unstable with time.

Processing Note:

Sturgis Haskins seems to have taken an active role in assembling this collection as a history of the Sorrento Yacht Club. Some of the earliest documents in this collection are represented as photocopies, apparently obtained by Haskins and filed as if they were original. The organization of the binders has not been altered since arriving at the museum.

Related Materials:

More material on Sorrento, the Sorrento Yacht Club, and the Wee Scott class is in PMM 36, the Sturgis Haskins Collection. This collection also holds material on a wide variety of racing sailboat classes on the Maine coast.

Maine Historical Society Coll. 2682, the Sturgis Haskins Collection, also contains material from the Sorrento Yacht Club, along with other material on sailing and photographs of members' boats.

Historical Note:

The Sorrento Yacht Club was formed in Sorrento, Maine, in 1925, by a group of summer residents led by Newbold Noyes. Members initially purchased Wee Scots, 15'3" Marconi sloops built by Milton Boat Yards in Rye, NY, and started a one-design racing season the next summer. As the club grew, it added a class of Sparkman & Stephens-designed Mercury Sloops in the 1950s, followed by one-design classes for Flying Fifteens and Herreshoff S-class sloops and a handicap class open to any boats. The club hosted weekly regattas for each class, an annual Labor Day regatta, and sailing lessons for all members. As of 2020, it is still operating as part of the Sorrento Village Improvement Association.

This collection was assembled, in part, by Sturgis Haskins (1940-2012), an avid sailor, historian, and Sorrento native who summered in town even during years he lived elsewhere. Haskins was an active member of the Sorrento Yacht Club who owned boats in multiple classes, taught sailing, and was deeply involved with both the club and the town throughout his life.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains records from the Sorrento Yacht Club from its founding in 1925 through the late 1970s. These include by-laws, annual meeting minutes, treasurer's reports, and other organizational records; annual announcements of racing rules, starting sequences, and related racing information; lists of members and the types of boats they owned; and results of every race run by the Sorrento Yacht Club during each season. This last provides the name of everyone who sailed in a race; from 1926 onward, some of the skippers in each race were women.

The correspondence in this collection is primarily about introducing new one-design classes to the Yacht Club. This is accompanied by pamphlets and descriptions of Wee Scots, Mercury Sloops, Flying Fifteens, and Turnabouts, all designs adopted by the club. Though limited, they address both design and cost considerations of a small-boat yacht club in the twentieth-century.

The final document in the collection is a list of sailing and motor boats kept in Sorrento harbor during the 1991 season. This was compiled by Sturgis Haskins, then the Harbor Secretary for Sorrento, and includes boats owned by residents who were not part of the Sorrento Yacht Club.

Box and Folder List:

- Volume 1 Sorrento Yacht Club, Minute Book, 1925-1946
- 2 Race records, 1926-1948
- Correspondence about starting the club and advertisements for the Wee Scott class, 1925
- Annual reports, treasurer's reports, and by-laws, c. 1946-1970
- 3 Race records, 1950-1959
- Specifications, Wee Scott class and Mercury class boats
- 4 Race records, 1960-1969
- Specifications, Turnabout class and Flying Fifteen class
- 5 Race records, 1970-1979

- Folder 1 Race records, 1975-1977
- List of Wee Scots at Sorrento with class rules, 1976
- 2 List of boats in Sorrento Harbor, 1978
- List of boats in Sorrento Harbor, 1991