



Onigaming Yacht Club Records MS-1008

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English

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Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

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Houghton 49931

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URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

Table of Contents

Summary Information 3

Biographical / Historical 3

Scope and Contents 4

Administrative Information 4

Controlled Access Headings 5

Collection Inventory 5

Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Onigaming yacht club records
ID:	MS-1008
Date [inclusive]:	1993-2014
Physical Description:	1.06 cubic feet (4 manuscript boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-4
Abstract:	Records, 1993-2014, of the Onigaming Yacht Club documenting the organization's activities, members, and finances.

Preferred Citation

MS-1008, Onigaming Yacht Club Records, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Onigaming Yacht Club was established in 1894. In that year the principal officers of the club were C.D. Sheldon, Commodore, Frank A. Douglas, Vice Commodore, W.D. Calverly, Secretary, and Thomas Dee, Treasurer. The name Onigaming was given to the club by Francis Jacker, brother of the Rev. Edward Jacker, who was a missionary colleague of Bishop Frederick Baraga. The name was derived from the Chippewa word "onigam" which means portage. In 1896 the yacht club purchased a large parcel of land adjacent to Portage Lake and built a clubhouse with a long porch facing the lake, a pier, tennis courts, and a bathing beach. Among the yachts owned by the club's charter members were four sloops, two schooners, a cutter, and four steam yachts. Probably the most splendid of these was the steam yacht Sea Fox owned by Commodore Alan F. Reyes, who served as the club's commodore from around nineteen hundred until his death in the early nineteen forties. The Sea Fox, which was some 120 feet long and powered by anthracite coal, led the club's regattas on Portage Lake, and

Commodore Rees presided over the club's grandest years. Today, against the Ripley shore opposite the Michigan Tech campus, the remains of the Sea Fox lie just beneath the surface of the Portage Canal. In 1924 a fire of unknown origin destroyed the Onigaming clubhouse, but it was immediately rebuilt, and in June of 1925 a gala dance was held to inaugurate the new building. The club flourished for many more years, but the Depression, World War II, and the postwar economic decline and closing of the area's copper mines took their toll. By 1960, the Onigaming Yacht Club was nearly at an end. In 1962 the disbanded club's property was divided and sold, and the clubhouse became the Onigaming Supper Club and went on to become one of the area's finest restaurants. In 1976 the Onigaming Yacht Club was reestablished by a group of sailing enthusiasts, several of whom moored their boats in front of the supper club, and again the Onigaming burgee was a frequent sight on Portage Lake and Lake Superior. The Onigaming Yacht Club has since purchased property in Dollar Bay and maintains a mooring field there.

Historical note provided by from the Onigaming Yacht Club website, "About Us, History of the Onigaming Yacht Club," https://www.onigaming.org/about-us#h.p_qdE1G1fwENXb, accessed August 14, 2020)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

Records, 1993-2014, of the Onigaming Yacht Club documenting the organization's activities, members, and finances. Contents of the collection include board minutes, newsletters, as well as financial and membership records.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Private clubs -- Michigan -- Houghton
- Sailing -- Michigan
- Yacht clubs -- Michigan -- Houghton
- Financial records
- Membership lists
- Minutes
- Newsletters
- Photographs

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Board meetings, 1997-2003	box 1	folder 1-5
Financial records, 2007-2014	box 1	folder 6-8
Financial records, 2007-2014	box 2	folder 1-5
Financial records, checks, and record of transactions, 1995-2012	box 2	folder 6
Financial records, GMAC Demand Notes account, 2000-2008	box 3	folder 1
Financial records, treasurer's reports and membership material, CDs, 2004-2012	box 3	folder 2
Membership applications and acceptance letters, 1993-2000	box 3	folder 3
Membership lists, 1993-2002	box 3	folder 4
Newsletter, Windwatch and Scuttlebutt, 1995-2001	box 4	folder 2

Onigaming Yacht Club Records MS-1008

Photograph album, 1996-1997	box 4	folder 3
Prospective members, 1999-2000	box 4	folder 1
Racing committee, undated	box 4	folder 4