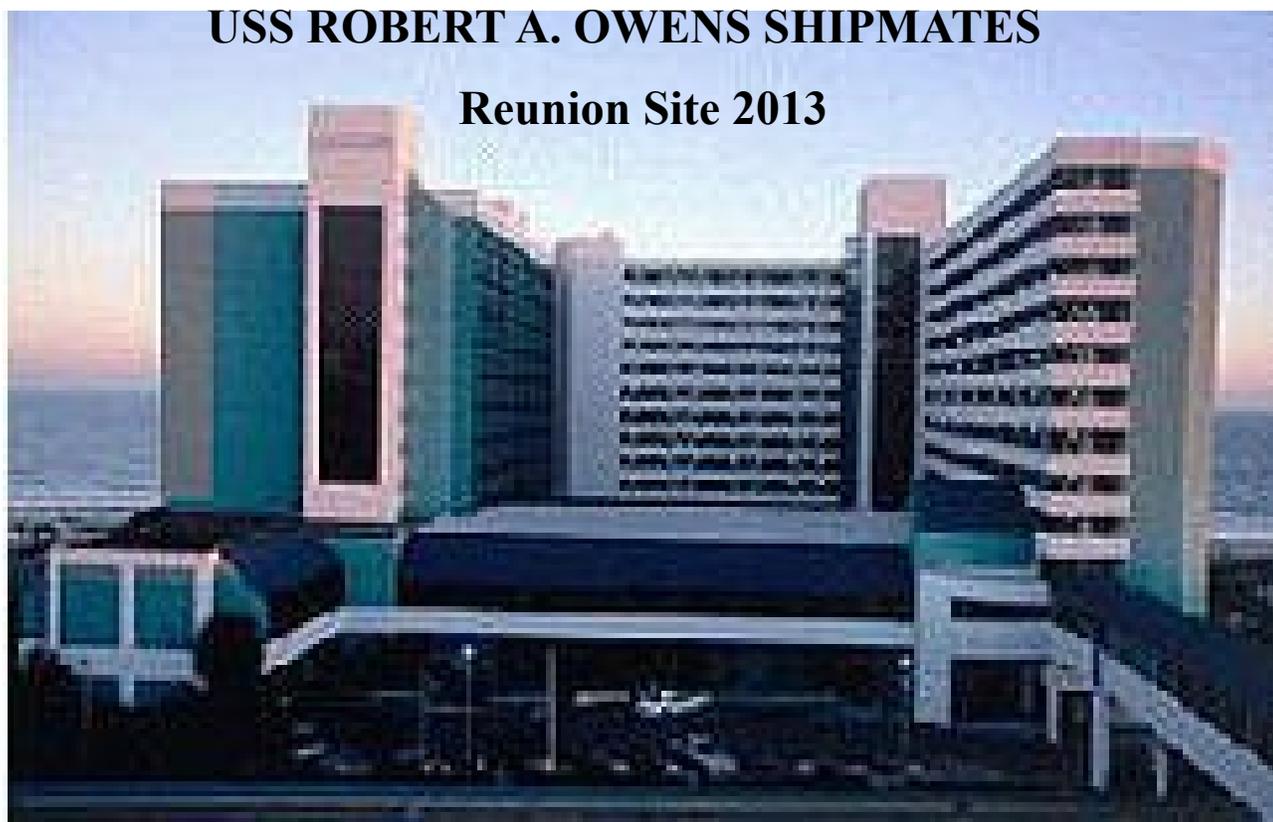


Robert Bucettas  
24 New Hampshire Lane  
Oakdale CT 06370

## **Landmark Resort Hotel, Myrtle Beach S.C.**

**USS ROBERT A. OWENS SHIPMATES**

**Reunion Site 2013**



**USS Robert A Owens Shipmates Association  
2013 Myrtle Beach Reunion Form**

**Monday**

**7 Oct. 2013 Hospitality room opens**

**Golf tournament**

**Carolina Opry ticket \$24 per person**

(Transportation on your own)

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday**

**8 Oct. 2013 Hospitality room officially opens**

**Wednesday**

**9 Oct. 2013 Tour of Georgetown, SC \$24 per person**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

(Maximum seating on bus is 50. If fewer than

40 sign up, trip canceled and money will be refunded)

**Alabama Theater tickets, dinner and bus  
\$70 per person**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

(If fewer than 40 sign up, this event will

Be cancelled and money refunded.)

**Thursday**

**10 Oct. 2013 Banquet buffet \$35 per person**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Reunion fee \$25 per person**

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Payment for above events should be mailed to:

**Your name** \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. William Bruce  
5545 War Admiral Drive  
Virginia Beach ,VA 23462

Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State and zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ -

**Payment due by 31 August 2013**



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

**Commissioned**  
**1949**

**President Joe Fisher 61-64**

**Decommissioned**  
**1982**

Fisherplatz@netscape.net

## 1st V.P. & Store Mgr.

Larry McCoskey  
Larrymc@firehousemail.com

## Treasurer

William Bruce  
billbruce20@hotmail.com

## Chaplain

Donald Lawson Jr.  
Donjuneii@aol.com

## Historian

Jack Wanko  
Johnwanko71@msn.com

## Membership Committee

Geoge T. Copes  
Tomcopes@cox.net  
Robert Kopec mbr

## Reunion Committee

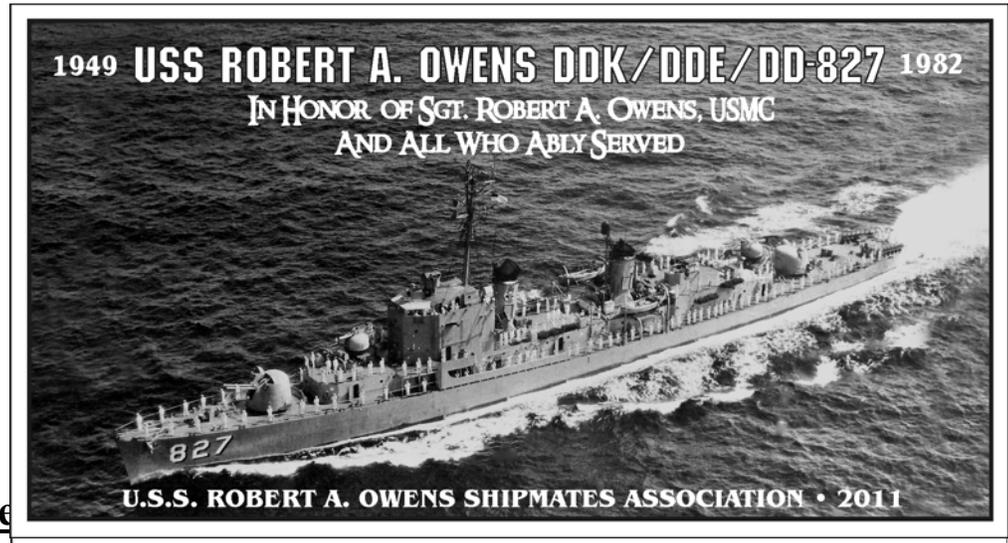
Harry Schoenagel  
Shoey@verizon.net  
Bobby Williams mbr  
Charles Ellis mbr  
Roy Dowis mbr

## Audit Committee

Ed Green  
Gab66@frontier.net  
Corwin Wherrett mbr  
John Wagner mbr

## Web Site Mgr.

Bob Bucettas  
Bucettas@sbcglobal.net



Membership...312

August 2013

## *Reunion edition*

FROM OUR CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE II PURPOSE

SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

SECTION 2: To promote the bond of friendship between all of the crew members who served in her during the years of commissioned service through newsletters, **web site**, **Internet**, and reunions..

## **From our President**

**The Shipmates Reunion** will be here before you know it, hopefully everyone has gotten their reservations in order for Myrtle Beach this coming October. Personally, my reservation has been confirmed and I will be sending to Bill Bruce the funds for the cost of the various activities that the Reunion Team has pulled together. Remember: "the more you put into it the more you get out of it!" That does not mean that you have to do everything, but only what appeals to you and yours. The Reunion Team has put together enough activities where you can pick and choose if you want. Some I understand, may be on a first come first served basis if space is limited. (Continue on next page)

# The Owens' Ping

---

More than anything, I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones as we enjoy our time at Myrtle Beach together. Some items that may need to be discussed and covered at the **Business Meeting** are: Who our officers for the next two years will be? Where the next Reunion will be held in 2015? (Bob B. suggested in an email Mexico City and I was excited thinking that he was out of the East Coast box, but he then came back and said he was kidding) In any case, as for myself I don't place the limits on our capabilities thinking of an Alaskan Cruise or one around the Hawaiian Islands as starters. There has been some discussion about the Ships Store and the excess that we may have in there. (What should be done??) Mentioned earlier this year, was if we should have a special condolence card made for those sad occasions where one of our number has taken permanent leave of the Ship? And in conjunction with those that pass from our ranks we need a better method of tracking those that are ill. (What are your thoughts?) Also suggested, was a donation to the Tin Can Sailors Organization (How much and by whom?) Dues are only \$10 a year but sometimes the membership fails or forgets to maintain payments. (What, Why, When....Are changes in the by-laws needed or not?) Beyond these items, I'm sure that there may be others floating around so let me know in time to add them to the agenda. (Important: Please check with your significant other on some of these items)

Finally, I have a **special gift** for those that will go on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and using my email address [fisherplatz@netscape.net](mailto:fisherplatz@netscape.net) look me up to see "**What brings me Joy?**" I will post this on my Facebook account page on my birthday September 30<sup>th</sup> for all to see. Don't have a computer. The local library will let you use theirs or most people have someone in their family that will help! Then at the Reunion give me that information and the gift is yours...! (Keep this close to your chest! If I run out....I run out, so no 'mourning at the bar when I put out to sea'.

**-Joe Fisher**

## **From Your First Vice President and Ships' Store Manager**

Greetings to all from Ellen and me; we hope you're having a wonderful summer. We traveled to St. Maarten for a week of sun, sand, and ocean for our annual "nice" vacation. Now, we're looking forward to coming to Myrtle Beach for our reunion with all of you. We'll be arriving on Sunday and I'm playing in the golf scramble Monday. I certainly hope many of you elect to do this as it will be a lot of fun and be a great chance to spend time together. Golf is secondary as it always should be. If it was that important, we'd be playing on TV on Sundays!!

Speaking of the reunion, I hope each of you are giving some serious thought to tossing your hats in the ring for some of the association positions that will be coming open this year. Many of the people who have been leading our organization have been doing it for a long while and deserve a break or at least may like to occupy one of the other positions. The more of us who participate, the easier it is on everyone!! I would like to pass the ship's store on to someone having been the proprietor now for about 6 years. So if anyone would like to take this, I'll have everything with me in Myrtle Beach. I have it down now to about 3 large rubbermaid totes, which are relatively easy to store. Also, be thinking about where we might conduct our future reunions beginning with the next one in 2015. I won't lie to you, it's a huge undertaking. But it is an extremely gratifying endeavor when completed.

# The Owens' Ping

---

We seriously need volunteers in all these areas, so please give it some of your sincerest consideration. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Myrtle Beach and eagerly look forward to meeting many of the new members of the organization. We're all members by virtue of being on the OWENS, it's everyone's choice as to how active we are.

**Larry McCoskey, VP**

## From our Reunion Chairman

The reunion committee would like to thank all shipmates who have sent in their reunion form which is a great help in planning the reunion. Please remember that the deadline for submission is 31 August 2013.

The hotel is running out of the more select rooms already. In order to get the room you want, make sure you call them immediately. The hotel is the Landmark Hotel, 1501 S. Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC. The reunion will officially be from Tuesday, Oct. 7 through Thursday, Oct. 10, but discounted rooms are available from 3 Oct. through 11 Oct. Each shipmate is responsible for calling in his own reservation. The only number to be used for reservations is 800.845.0658. You must refer to our account which is USS Robert A. Owens DDE827 in order to get the preferred prices.

### Landmark Hotel Room Rates

Interior hotel rooms	\$37	Oceanview rooms	\$40	Oceanfront rooms	\$47
Oceanfront efficiencies	\$49	King angle oceanview suites	\$47	Deluxe angle oceanview suite	\$49
Oceanfront suites	\$53			Deluxe oceanfront suites	\$54

The bus trip to Georgetown, SC is filling up fast and appears to be popular so make your request as early as possible via the Reunion Form to assure your seat on the bus. This applies to the bus/dinner/Alabama show also.

The reunion committee is looking forward to seeing everyone in October.

**Harry Schoenagel /Chairman**

I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH JIM LEWIS IN MYRTLE BEACH ABOUT HAVING A TV WITH PICTURES. JIM WAS RECOMENDED BY PAT EMMONS AT THE LANDMARK. JIM HAS ALL THE EQUIPMENT WE WILL NEED AND WILL PUT THE PICTURES ON A DISK , FURNISH THE TV. AND HELP SET UP WHAT EVER WE NEEDED. HIS FEE IS FROM 35 TO 50 DOLLARS. ALL DEPENDS ON THE TIME IT TAKES TO CUT THE DISK PRINT THE PICTURES ETC. ANY COMMENTS WELCOME. ALSO , IF ANY ONE HAS PICTURES THEY WOULD LIKE US USE, IF THEY WILL SEND THEM TO ME IN DUNCAN SOUTH CAROLINA. I WILL KEEP THEM SEPERATED AND GIVE THEM BACK AT THE REUNION OR MAIL THEM BACK AFTER THE REUNION.

JIM WILL BE GLAD TO MEET US AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING AND FINISH UP ANY DETAILS. PICTURES SHOULD BE SENT TO ARIVE AT LEAST BY THE SECOND DAY OF SEPTEMBER TOINSURE THEY ARE USED IN THE REEL.

THANKS AND SEE YOU AT THE REUNION.

**ROY DOWIS /Member**

# The Owens' Ping

---

## From your Ping Editor

This is the last Ping before our reunion which comes up every other year. The business meeting is a chance to review what has been accomplished, and think of what we can do for the coming year. Those decisions have been made at the reunion itself and most of our members are not present. Perhaps we can change this using communications by email with most members. If you can't make the reunion your voice could still be heard.

Since our last reunion we have had several accomplishments. Our ship is now memorialized with a plaque in the Navy Memorial in Washington DC. There was a dedication given by Admiral Trost in their auditorium. Several members spoke. Many shipmates were in attendance. I enjoyed hearing the speakers talk on past times.

An Honor Roll has been established. A listing of all known deceased sailors that ever sailed on our ship. They might not have been members but some of our shipmates could have sailed with them. Our thanks go out to Robert Kopec and George (Tom) Copes for all their past and future efforts on that project. Our membership has been maintained at a fairly steady level, thanks again to these two shipmates, and the blessing of not having too many leave us.

We have prepared and will shortly have our reunion in Myrtle Beach. This year's reunion was chaired by Harry Schoenagel, with several other official and unofficial team members contributing their time and effort. It seems to me that they made the job more play than work, but that is a good thing, and we all benefit from their work. Thanks to all of them for having set up a marvelous package. Maybe our next reunion committee can follow their example.

With lower expenses and higher dues collections the treasury has increased by about \$2000. Using email to send out the Ping has reduced mailing and printing costs. We have stopped replacing inventory in the ship's store. It is too costly to use bulk purchase to replace those items depleted when we no longer have a fast growing membership. Could you suggest some way we could outfit our new members with distinctive outfits? I understand that the official baseball caps will be maintained.

I am suggesting that a patch, sew or iron on emblem be designed that present or future members could use to put on clothing they buy individually, possibly from the Tin Can Sailors store. That way new members could be outfitted without restocking our store. Some old members might want to replace some items and Tin Can Sailors members might want to brag about their ship. If you agree with this perhaps you will send in your design.

Our web site served us well. We had contact with the daughter of CAPT English and with the grandson of CAPT Patterson. Several other contacts were made through our website, and acquaintances were renewed. There were a few that found the site and joined the association. The site gets a fairly constant hit rate of about 20 per week. Some of those are me, but new people are still finding us.

So now, how many of you would like to participate, even if you cannot attend the reunion? Would you like to suggest our next reunion location. You can do that and be our next Reunion Chairman if your entry is selected. If you put a team together the job could be spread out and simplified, Would you consider volunteering to be an officer? A list of offices being opened is provided later in this paper

There is usually more to be found on our website. Please consider getting your Ping by email.

**Bob Bucettas**

# The Owens' Ping

---

## 2013 Myrtle Beach Reunion Agenda

Below is a list of our current officers and their plans for the new term. You are entitled to vote for any member to be our next President. You can also submit your name as a candidate for any open position. You might also volunteer to be a member of our next Reunion Committee after the new location is selected. Contact the selected reunion chairman if your interested .

Larry is looking for someone to replace him at the Ships' store. He discusses this in his lead article. Please think about this.

I would like very much to have someone replace me as Ping Editor. If you are not ready for that job yet, then how about Associate or Contributing Editor. Then someone would be ready to take over in the future.

### List of officers

office	current member	open	will renew
President	Joe Fisher	XX	
Vice President	Larry McCoskey		XX
Ships Store Mge	Larry McCoskey	XX	
Secretary	George Copes		XX
Treasurer	William Bruce		XX
Historian	Jack Wanko		XX
Chaplain	Donald Lawson		XX
Membership	George Copes		XX
	Robert Kopec		XX
Reunion	Harry Schoenagel	XX	
Ping Editor	Bob Bucettas	XX	
Web Site Mgr	Bob Bucettas		XX
Audit Committee	Ed Green		XX
	Corwin Wherrett		XX
	John Wagner		XX

Now is your chance to suggest our next reunion location. Preparing for and organizing a reunion is a large task that is done after the selection is made. That selection should not be limited to those made by members at the reunion. The final selection will be made by those at the reunion according to the bylaws, but your input now will help and broaden their choices. This might not have been done before, but now, with the internet, email and cell phones we can give this a try

My own suggestions might include Las Vegas for low cost rooms and the Grand Canyon. How about Philadelphia or Boston as good historic sites or Nashville Tennessee for some good music. If we limit our selection to only those made by members at the business meeting we probably are missing some very good opportunities. Send your suggestions to the current President with copies to Vice President, Secretary, Audit Committee and the Ping. These will be considered along with those suggested, by members at the reunion. If a reunion member suggests a location that was already suggested, he should become the chairman of the committee to organize our next reunion with all others becoming committee members.

If there is something else on your mind regarding the shipmates association that you would like to have pleased on the agenda please bring it to our attention. Your inputs will make our business meeting better.

You can read again what was printed in earlier Pings. Two previous issues are available on our website crews page.

# The Owens' Ping

---

## LETTERS

### From Joe Fisher

Shipmates, Family and Friends,

I hope this finds you doing well. I look forward to seeing you in October at Myrtle Beach if you plan to make that trip. Hopefully you will??!

For those that are going to the Virginia and Oregon football game in Charlottesville this September perhaps we can make contact there. You have my phone number and most of the time I carry the cell phone with me like a teenager...What ever that means?

My health is in good to fair condition and I'm still on the green side. I enjoy hearing from you in whatever manner and enjoy the things that you send me from time to time. What about you? No No Seriously what about you? Let me know what has been happening in your life. Whether it be about you, your children or grand children, dogs, cats, birds, fish or whatever you would like to talk about. I'm truly interested in what you are doing and have been doing.

There are a lot of you that I maintain contact with through the Facebook pages that have become 'Friends' and others that have just joined the USS Robert A. Owens Facebook page which now has about thirty Associates on that..  
Know that I care.

### From John Wagner

John sent this letter into the Ping. You will have to be at the reunion to hear these stories.

If I make it to the reunion, I'd like to tell our shipmates a couple of sea stories from my Owens days: like how I literally ran into Jimmy Durante during our 24 hour liberty in Havana which incident was after touring several rum factories but before five of us junior officers helped close the Copa Cabana more than two hours after the regular 2 AM closing time. Or how I borrowed a jeep on a Sunday so we could explore the hills around Gitmo looking for Fidel Castro. It was the Day Wil Lilling had the stroke that caused him to be medically retired from the Navy at age 25. It happened near the end of our trip. Or how Ed Schmidt and I got a Captain's Mast from Captain Miller for not making it back to the ship for quarters after attending an official picnic on the Pacific side of the Panama Canal the day before. Anybody remember visiting Colon? I also have some stories about how my becoming the only Owens Supply Officer to stand underway watches got Captain Miller in hot water with ComDesLant. Amazing what some old sailors can remember sometimes without even trying.

Hope to see you all in October,

# The Owens' Ping

---

## LETTERS

### **From John Wanko**

#### REUNION GOLF OUTING

On Monday, October 7th we are planning a golf outing at one of the fine Myrtle Beach courses. For those of you that golf here is a great chance to enjoy the day and win some valuable prizes. The cost will be about \$65-\$70 per person which includes green fee, cart and prizes. If you would like to participate please email me direct at [JohnWanko71@msn.com](mailto:JohnWanko71@msn.com). I need to know no later than September 15th so I can arrange tee times. As of July 23rd I have four men and two women:

### **From Bob Bucettas**

Steve Pitura is looking to meet up with his old friend Ralph Miller. They were on board in 1971-1972 period. You can send any info to Steve at his email [spitura@aol.com](mailto:spitura@aol.com)

I have recently joined USS The Sulivans Association. This is a dual ship organization, DD537 and DDG68.. Both ships carry that name I served 2 years on DD537 as a member of the select reserve crew Those were good times. Every month the ship would dock in the Brooklyn Navy Yard to pick us up for a weekend training cruise. Entering and leaving New York harbor was very different from leaving the destroyer piers in Norfolk . The New York harbor is truly huge. Ferries or other ships there were no problem Each August we would spend 2 weeks on active duty.

One trip north to St John Nova Scotia was memorable. There was constant fog in the area north of Maine and I lost my voice. Something about that fog affected my vocal chords and I was relieved of duties for several days. On the return trip I had the midwatch and picked up a sonar contact. It was as big and clear as it could be. I reported it, but hesitated with the classification . We passed the target and came back several times before the bridge demanded a classification. Possible submarine was the only choice. Calling it in, the ship went to GQ. We circled the target some more and tracked it for several hours before reporting it on to COMLANT.

The target seemed dead in the water from tracking with our fathometer, but tracking accuracy was not that good. A flight of P3 Orions came in that morning and reported MADMAN. They had found a metallic object. There were no reports on the SOSUS net, but it still looked suspicious. I think some more ships came in, possiblvly Canadian. We were relived after several more hours and secured for lunch or possibly supper. I am sure that many comments were made about stupid Sonarmen. The contact was later identified as a sunken wreck and placed on the official charts.

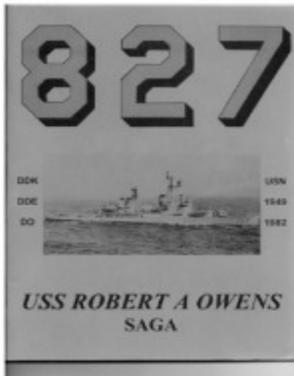
I hope to make the Field day for The Sullivans in August. I'm not sure what someone my age can contribute, but I will give it a try.

# The Owens'

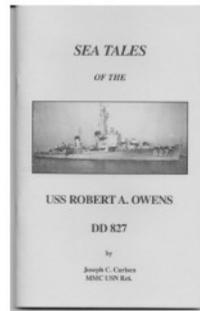
## The Ship's Store

Larry McCoskey, Manager

Shirt, Polo/Golf, Blue XXXL(11) XXL(5) XL(30) L(7) M(9)	\$20.00	Shirt, Polo/Golf, Gray M(4)	\$15.00
Shirt, Tee/w pocket Blue XL(12), M(13), S(22)	\$10.00	Shirt, Tee/Youth M(4)	\$ 7.00
Shirt, Tee/Long Sleeve Blue XXL(3), XL(2), L(2)	\$15.00	Shirt, Zip up/Hooded Blue XXL(2),	\$15.00
Hat Baseball Style, winter,wool (22)	\$17.00	Ship's Patch 1949-64 (25)	\$3.00
Hat Baseball style, summer,mesh (12)	\$17.00	Ship's Patch 1964-82 (4)	\$3.00
		Plank Owner Patch (2)	\$3.00
Book, Robert Owens Saga (114)	\$15.00	Book, Sea Tales By Joe Carlsen (2)	\$7.00



Robert Owens Saga by J. Holden and M. Cross &nbsp;68 pgs. &nbsp;Soft cover &nbsp;8.5 by 11The definitive history of the ship &nbsp;with details of each years operations. Scale drawings of the ship, details of her equipment, ships organization, ASW tactics,and much More \$15.00



Sea Tales of the USS ROBERT A OWENSBy Joseph Carlsen MMC Ret5.5 x 8.5 &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;48 pages &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;soft coverA collection of 44 true stories of life and adventure on our Destroyer. \$7.00

**To place your order,** list items, quantity an price, with total  
Make your check payable to.....Robert Owens Shipmates Assoc

MAIL TO: Mr Larry McCoskey  
4110 Dolphin Road  
Louisville, KY 40220  
(502) 458 3140

## The following new items were developed by and can be viewed on the web site

Owens 1955 Cruise Book	\$15.00
Owens 1961 Cruise Book	\$15.00
Owens 1965 Cruise Book	\$15.00
Plaque Magnet 3.75 by 2.00 inch	\$3.00
Plaque Magnet 7.00 by 3.75 inch	\$6.00
DVD Travels of RA Owens'	\$5.00

To order these items,  
make your check payable  
and mail to

Mr Robert Bucettas  
24 new Hampshire Lane  
Oakdale CT. 06370