



When I started editing *Flying Fish* in the early 1990s I always put obituaries at the front as a mark of respect – until Mary Barton, who was Commodore at that time, said she found it depressing and how about putting them at the end? I was hesitant, therefore, about leading off this issue with the fascinating account of her own life which begins on page 5. But really, where else was appropriate? Admiral Mary was unique in the history of our Club, and it's fair to say that without her leadership nearly 30 years ago the OCC might well not have survived. Do read her life story, whether you're an old stager or a recent joiner – and once again my thanks to all who contributed.

Now back to the prosaic: several members have reported problems in despatching articles from more remote parts of the world – despite appearing to depart safely, their message never reaches me. So if you send something and don't hear back within a week or so please check that you have the address correct and try again ... and if that doesn't work, send it to Rachelle at secretary@oceancruisingclub.org with a request that she forwards it on.

Still on the subject of sending things, rather than attaching multiple photos to multiple e-mails do try a great little (free) program called WeTransfer [www.wetransfer.com]. It could hardly be simpler, and has the great advantage (over Dropbox, for instance) that you receive an e-mail saying your files have been sent, and another when the recipient has downloaded them. Brilliant! Even so, it's always wise to send an e-mail as well, of course.

For those whose writing is on a more ambitious scale than the occasional *Flying Fish* article, we review eight or ten books in the average issue, many of which are by members. So if you've written either a how-to sailing book, or a novel with a sailing background, please drop me a line and we'll take it from there. Regrettably *Flying Fish* does not have space to carry reviews of non-sailing novels, however gripping.

A couple of pleas: several of my valued team of proof-readers have retired over the past year, so members with sharp eyes for errors of all kinds – grammatical, typos, misspelt place names, etc – are invited to apply! Secondly, my larder of recipes is almost empty, so do share some of your favourites, whether sophisticated 'marina party' items or creative combinations easy to knock together in bad weather or from depleted supplies near the end of a long passage. Many thanks indeed.

Finally, the usual reminder – the **DEADLINE** for submissions to *Flying Fish* 2016/2 is **Tuesday 1 October**, but as always it's wise not to leave it until the last moment. If you've not written before please take time to read *Sending Submissions to Flying Fish* on page 101, and e-mail me, Anne Hammick, on flying.fish@oceancruisingclub.org if you have any queries.

Cover Photo: Celeste and sea ice near Barrow – see *Voyaging to the Top of America*, page 42). Photo Ellen Massey Leonard