

## *From the Quarterdeck*

Under the leadership of the 2009 Executive Committee, HCYC has had a great year along with a healthy growth in membership. We have had some very memorable parties, some great dinners and an events calendar to keep the weekends busy out at the lake. I would like to thank **Jesse Murphy** and **2009's Executive Committee** for all their hard work, so that all club members could enjoy the friendly camaraderie that is HCYC. Now it's 2010 - the beginning of a new year with a new crew now taking the helm. I hope 2010 will be at least as good as 2009.

Hello everybody, I will be your Vice Commodore for this year's cruise aboard the good ship HCYC. Here is a little background about myself. I grew up fishing and boating in south Louisiana. (You can't live in south LA and not be around water.) One of my earliest memories as a kid was being buckled into an orange canvas life vest for a ride in the family boat. I spent my summers in places like Cocodrie, Myrtle Grove and Lafitte where we would spend vacation days fishing, crabbing & trawling for shrimp in the shallow bays and bayous surrounding Barataria Bay.

In 1999, Elaine and I purchased our first sailboat. Of course, I didn't know how to sail but I would take the 25' Mac Gregor out on Lake Pontchartrain, motor far enough out where people on Lake Shore Drive could not tell when I screwed up, and began to teach myself how to sail. After a few overnight cruises, we quickly outgrew the Mac Gregor. We got a bigger boat and, eventually, another bigger boat. We joined a yacht club and I began to race with club members. We had 6 great years with the South Shore Yacht Club sailing and cruising on Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi Gulf coast. I had the opportunity to do a number of offshore races—a couple of them to Isla Mujeres, Mexico.

Then Hurricane Katrina hit. We evacuated to Texas to wait out the storm. It was a month before we could go home. Our 35.5 Hunter sank in its slip with a piling through the hull. In the meantime, we had the opportunity to visit the Hill Country and Canyon Lake. We fell in love with the area and the people here, and decided to stay. We met some wonderful members at HCYC that helped us make the move to the Texas Hill Country.

I look forward to serving as Vice Commodore and keeping the clubhouse in Bristol condition. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to email me at [johrui@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johrui@sbcglobal.net).

*See you at the lake,  
John Ruiz*