

### Race-boat Alternatives

**T**he object of a racing boat is to keep moving, not sit still, so it's no real surprise that cleats aren't a high-priority item. Aside from adding weight, cleats are notoriously effective at snagging sheets and guys, pushing them further down the list of "must haves" on a good racing boat. In fact, some racing boats we looked at for this article did not even have cleats on the foredeck to take an anchor or bowline. The weld on this eyelet (right) is not designed to take the loads in the direction of pull of a dockline. Also, releasing the line under load will require a knife. Other makers, however, found folding designs and pop-up cleats (far right) to be a fair compromise. But corrosion and grit soon take the "pop" out of pop-up cleats. For cruising boats, *PS* still recommends the no-nonsense fixed cleats, always at the ready when you need them.

