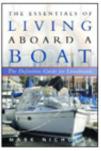
## Life Afloat

Don't let living the dream become a nightmare. Mark Nicholas's The Essentials of Living Aboard a Boat helps you learn from his mistakes as you transition to life on the water. Whether you plan to cruise or live aboard in a marina, you'll get advice on such issues as picking the right boat and knowing what "luxuries" you just can't live without. (Nicholas, who lives on his boat while holding down an office job, considers a stereo, TV, and Internet accessibility essential to his liveaboard comfort.) Nicholas uses an organized and realistic approach to identify the difficulties and joys of living aboard; the itemized cost com-



THE ESSENTIALS OF LIVING ABOARD A BOAT By Mark Nicholas 284 pages, \$17.95 Paradise Cay, 2005

parisons for maintenance, marinas, seasonal expenses, and more, plus lists of essential equipment, make the book a useful reference. Personal accounts from other liveaboards provide invaluable perspective and a variety of opinions to help you decide what kind of liveaboard you want to be. As Nicholas explains, the more you know about the life you are adopting, the more likely you are to succeed. & REBECCA WATERS