Although anchoring is a critical skill for cruisers, it is often practiced on a largely subjective basis. We eyeball a prospective parking spot, note the water depth and state of the tide, and then guesstimate where we’ll end up and what our swing radius will be. Enter the new anchoring feature in Maretron’s N2KView vessel monitoring and control system, which takes much of the guesswork out of the game. By quantifying the same data we normally process intuitively while anchoring, N2KView turns art into science. To operate, the user enters a set of fixed vessel parameters—length, height of hawsepipe, horizontal hawsepipe offsets, minimum anchoring depth—along with such variables as tidal range and minimum scope desired immediately prior to each set. N2KView then monitors the water depth as you anchor, alerting you if you’ll ground out at low tide; recording the time, GPS location and water depth at the moment you anchor; and calculating both a set and drag radius, which it presents in a comprehensive graphic display that includes real-time wind speed and direction data. While at anchor, the N2KView then monitors your position relative to your anchor and sounds an alarm if you start dragging. Finally, when it’s time to leave, it provides range and bearing data back to the pick, in place of crew on the bow waving their arms and shouting. A neat trick indeed!