

GREENOUGH MAN IN MOTION PAIPO: PART II • BY SKIP NEWELL

You can't mistake George Greenough's powerful surfing style or his unique spoon-like knee board. He's an inventor, photographer, and superb wave rider all wrapped up in a mysterious enigma. He shuns publicity, and avoids contests like the plague. He doesn't care what he rides, surfboards, kneeboards, or mats, or whatever, just so he's in the water having fun. Unless you surfed the Santa Barbara area in the early sixties or more recently in Australia, motion pictures probably provide the only glimpses you may had of George Greenough.

Yet he has given surfing more real innovations than most anyone . . . save perhaps Bob Simmons, or Dick Brewer, or one or two more. Greenough has contributed fin shapes, rail designs, wave theory, knee boards, photographic concepts, and has been a driving force behind many of the contemporary ideas that have come out of Australia in the past few years.

In any discussion of paipo boards and knee boards it must be remembered that shapes, like those in surfboards, are temporary and will be improved upon in time. Greenough's glass and foam "spoon" knee board is no exception. However the one thing that makes this particular concept important is the timing of its appearance on the surfing scene.

What Greenough gave us is more than a new concept, it is a new impetus to develop the paipo board or knee machine to further degrees of refinement for more and more people.

Several companies have made paipo boards in the past, but few designs have been able to conjure up interest enough to make it an exciting and needed part of surfing . . . this is what Greenough has done thru films of him riding his knee board in the states and in Australia . . . a new wave of interest is quietly sweeping the country. More and more people are finding these boards faster, more maneuverable and compact, and easy to ride. The sensation of speed from riding so close to the water must be experienced to be believed. Knee boards work equally well in the East or gulf coast waters and they're not expensive. Paipo boarding is on the rise, if you don't believe it, visit Huntington Beach any morning of the week. That's what George Greenough gave us, an awakening of better ways to enjoy the ocean.

