

A New Seafaring Classic

When the New York Yacht Club wanted a sailboat for a new club-racing class, it stuck to tradition and launched a design competition. In the end Finland's Nautor's Swan beat half a dozen other builders with this instant icon: the \$650,000 Club Swan 42, a gorgeous and efficient 42-footer with the speed and grace of a racer and the handling of a seafaring Porsche. This is the NYCC's first newly commissioned racer in 27 years, and it brings an array of state-of-the-art materials and technology to the water. The hull is a composite of fiberglass with carbon fiber reinforcements, and its sail plan is efficient and intuitive. As befits a boat that spends a lot of its time reflecting the mansions on the rocky coast of Newport, Rhode Island, it's a wonder to behold: twin-pedestal steering, lines and halyards running through conduits, and more teak than a furniture emporium (nautorswan.com).

RATIONAL ALTERNATIVE:

Try the J/22, a classic day boat that goes for around \$35,000 (jboats.com).



A Card Table with Class

After graduating from Yale in 1987, Mark Lackley put his expensive degree to good use, taking a \$6-an-hour job learning woodworking and furniture design. He became so proficient on a lathe that he began building hold 'em tables in his Vermont workshop. Now he makes anywhere from 24–48 a year, veneering many with an exotic African wood called sapele (a cousin to mahogany) and accenting the rails with herringbone and ebony inlays. If the thought of your buddies bringing their beers anywhere near this lush felt makes you cringe, no worries. The table has slide-out drink holders (*from \$11,000; lackley.com*).

RATIONAL ALTERNATIVE: Weber Tables' handmade version, with built-in chip tray (*\$1,549; webertables.com*)

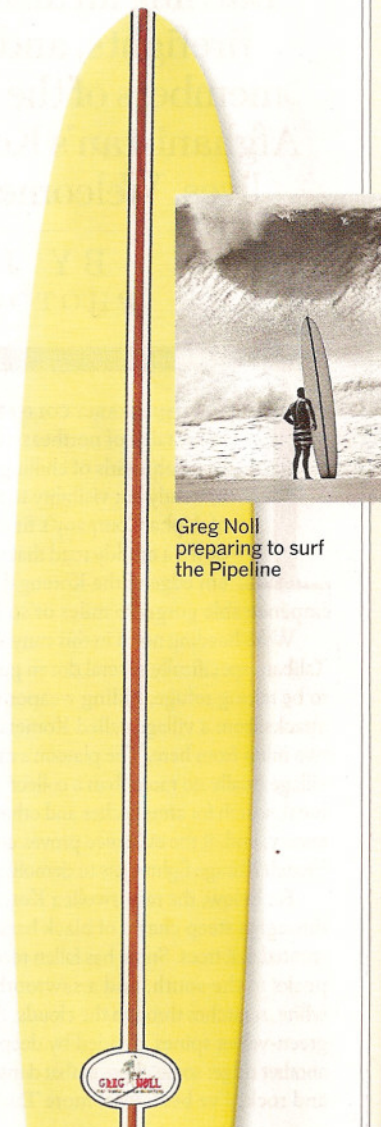


STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL MCKOVECK. TEXT BY EDDIE ALTERMAN, MARK ANDERS, BEN HEWITT, BRIAN METZLER, STEVE MORGENSTERN, TIM MURRELL, BRAD REAGAN, WILL RIZZO, DACUS THOMPSON, AND JOEL WEBER.

Legendary Longboard

It's one of the most iconic images in surfing history: the 1964 John Severson photo of surfer Greg Noll standing with his board at Oahu's Pipeline. Noll built that 11-foot, four-inch gun himself: 3 7/8 inches of foam and fiberglass with a red-wood stringer and a big barn door-style single fin. More than 40 years later Noll, 69, has passed his craft on to his son Jed. Together they shape '60s-era balsa tankers, re-creations of ancient koa wood Hawaiian boards, and that same Pipeline board. "To guys who've been surfing today's boards," says Greg Noll, "this thing feels like a Sherman tank" (*\$6,000; gregnoll.com*).

RATIONAL ALTERNATIVE: Surftech has teamed with legendary surfers and shapers to create modern versions of classic longboards (*from \$900; surftech.com*).



Greg Noll preparing to surf the Pipeline



NAUTOR'S SWAN: DAN NERNEY; SURFBOARD: COURTESY GREG NOLL; VINTAGE GREG NOLL: JOHN SEVERSON/SURFERART.COM; POKER TABLE: LYNN BOHANNON