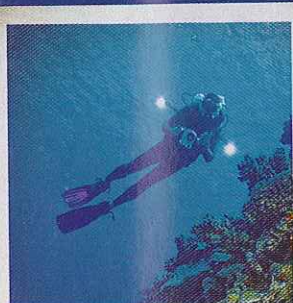


It's enough *to*
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Doing It Dry

DUI'S TRAVELING DOG RALLY INVITES DIVERS TO EXPAND THEIR HORIZONS BY ERIC MICHAEL



WHEN THE MERCURY PLUNGES into the 40s in November, most Florida divers crank the heat and stay in bed. But on a recent unseasonably brisk Saturday, I welcomed the chill — I had a blind date with a drysuit at Manatee Springs in Chiefland, Florida.

Learning to dive dry had always been on my to-do list; DUI's DOG Rally helped remedy that skill deficiency by making it way too easy to say yes.

Part traveling demo circus, part community outreach program, the California manufacturer's annual road trip brings more than a hundred of its suits to locations around the country, including some of America's top local-diving hot spots in the Midwest and on both coasts. Along with access to the complete line of drysuits, undergarments, RockBoots and accessories in every size, certified participants receive fitting by seasoned DUI staff, the opportunity to test-dive as many suits as they desire and enough training to get wet safely. Not to mention a steady supply of camaraderie — and a free barbecue — with divers just as passionate as you, all for a \$10 advance ticket (\$15 day of).

I entered the well-oiled DOG Rally assembly line a complete newbie, and in about an hour I was hovering above the mouth of the spring, dialing in my buoyancy under the supervision of one of DUI's traveling instructors. Starting with its new high-tech FLX Extreme, I switched to a more burly TLS 350 for a second dive and would have kept dig-

ging through the line had I not spent so much time talking with the other divers. Driving home that night, I promised myself I'd get my PADI Drysuit Diver Specialty class scheduled as soon as possible. And I'll never sleep in on cold mornings again.



ON THE ROAD

Here are dates for DUI's 2011 DOG Rally & Demo Tour:

- MARCH 19-20: San Diego, Calif.
- APRIL 1-3: Pelham, Ala.
- APRIL 8-10: Austin, Tex.
- APRIL 16-17*: Eureka Springs, Alaska
- MAY 13-15: Gloucester, Mass.
- MAY 20-22: Bethlehem, Pa.
- JUNE 4-5: South Beloit, Ill.
- JUNE 10-12: Black River Falls, Wis.
- AUG 12-14: Newport, Ore.
- AUG 19-21*: Tacoma Beach, Wash.
- SEPT 10-11: Monterey, Calif.
- SEPT 16-18*: Ottawa, Ohio
- SEPT 24-25: Metropolis, Ill.
- OCT 1-2*: Brockville, Ontario
- OCT 21-23: Rawlings, Va.
- NOV 11-13: Chiefland, Fla.
- NOV 18-20: Terrell, Texas
- DEC 3-4*: Catalina Island, Calif.

Dates with asterisks are pending. For up-to-date information, visit dui-online.com.

2011 DIVE TRAVEL PLANNER

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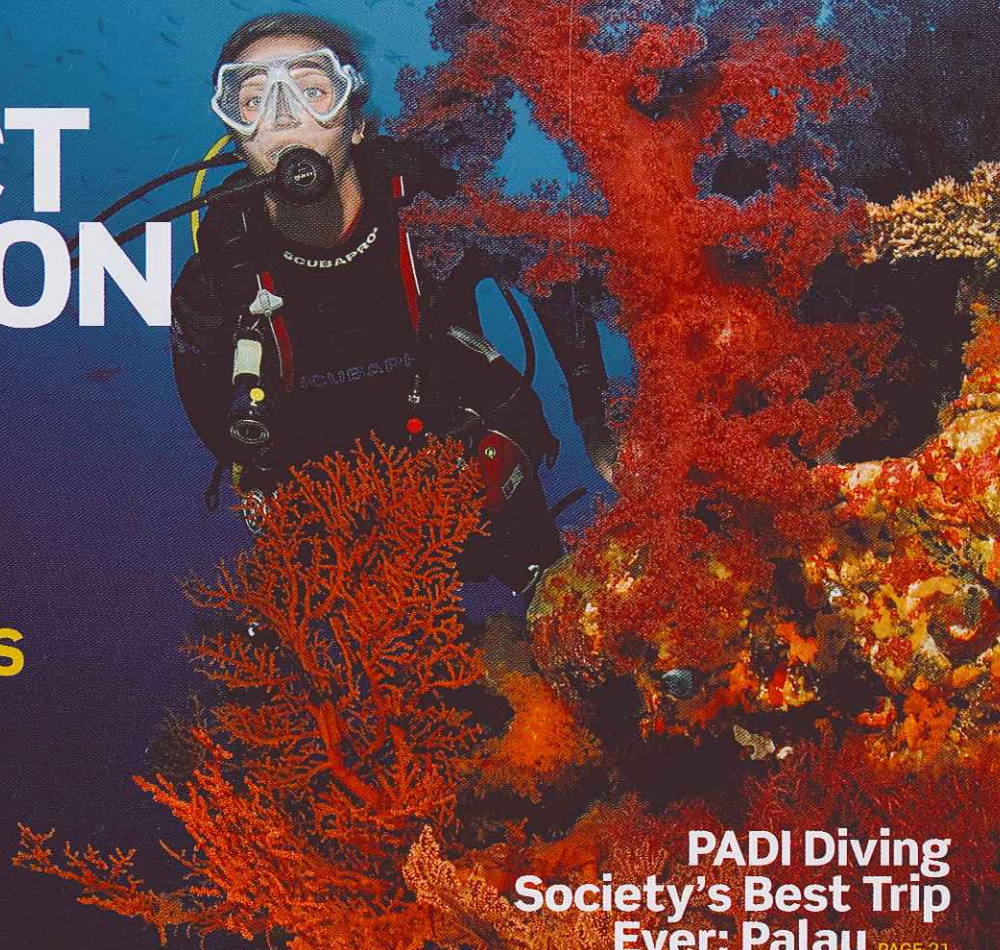
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