

# Second Runner-Up Winner of the 2010 Go PRO Challenge Testimonial Contest **David Splitt**

# 2010 GoPRO<sup>SM</sup> Challenge

*David's Contest Entry*

## **I'm a PADI Pro for the Love of It**

By David Splitt

I can give hundreds of reasons why I became a PADI Pro and will continue to pursue the levels beyond Divemaster. I have done some really neat and magical things in my 64 years on this planet, including teaching at all levels from high school to law school, marching to the Lincoln Memorial with Martin Luther King, Jr., performing at the Washington Monument for a Farm Workers rally led by Caesar Chavez, serving as a member of the staff at Woodstock, singing in the chorus with Leonard Bernstein in the Kennedy Center, marrying my high school sweetheart, and many more adventures that are usually told late at night in the bar or around a fire on the beach after a night shore dive. But nothing I have ever done has been any more fascinating and rewarding or just plain cool than introducing new divers to the wonders of reefs, wrecks, and the vast unexplored sea and all the wonders it contains.



There is always a sense of accomplishment when participating in something really worthwhile, and that is certainly a big part of it. But it is so much more. As a former Boy Scout, I guess I would compare it to helping a million little old ladies across the street in a hurricane all at the same time. But for all that sense of sharing knowledge and enthusiasm of diving with young and old students, it may sound a bit selfish, but I feel like I get more out of being a PADI Divemaster than I could ever give.

I am getting close to the time in my career as a lawyer and businessman when most of my colleagues are anticipating retirement to a life of leisure. Not me! Although I am not yet ready to hang up my legal spurs, I know that the future I have to look forward to is much more exciting... a new career as a PADI Pro where the lure and reward is far from fame and fortune... but much closer to my heart.