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Moab, Utah

Moab, Utah has long been the Mecca for base jumping in the United States for two reasons. The ease of access to the cliffs from which we jump, and the fact that it is legal. Typically the vertical drop is in the 400 foot range and the height above the landing area can be anywhere from zero to 1600 feet.

BASE jumping is the recreational sport of jumping from fixed objects, using a parachute to descend to the ground. BASE is an acronym that stands for four categories of fixed objects from which one can jump: buildings, antennas (referring to radio masts), spans (bridges) and earth. Participants jump from a fixed object such as a cliff and after an optional freefall delay deploy a parachute to slow their descent and land. A popular form of BASE jumping is Wingsuit BASE jumping.

In 2013 myself and a friend had an unspoken competition as to who would be the first person to wingsuit base jump in Moab. In our small community of base jumping that was considered the Holy Grail. We were both in Europe that summer training on our new suits when he had an accident and did not come home.

It was about 8 months later when myself and my 'Partner in Crime' Richard Webb, joined me in tackling this adventure. It was all unknown territory, with experimental flying suits, with an exceptionally high risk factor. Wing suiting in general was still in its infancy.

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 we rose hours before sunrise and headed back to the highest and safest cliff we could find. After a year of training and diagnosing a dozen different sites, the time was upon us.

After a short hike we donned our suits, checked the winds, and leaped into history.

Just after sunrise I pushed off, managing to scrape out about a 20 second flight before deploying the parachute. Landing safely I can see Richard on the Exit. I was too excited to be scared. Less than two minutes later he landed next to me.

This was the beginning of an incredible two year long journey of opening wingsuit exits in the Moab area. We had certainly obtained the Triple Crown of base jumping.

This Wingsuit is manufactured by Tony Suits of Zephyrhills, Florida. It is a 2012 first Generation Rebel model. This suit is actually the third suit to Wingsuit base jump in Moab. The first two are held by their respective pilots.

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