



Corinne Bartschi leaps from a bridge as her husband, Marc, gives her a pilot chute assist so her canopy will open quickly to slow her descent.

Photos courtesy of Corinne Bartschi

## Jumping for Joy ... From Bridges and Planes

*Exhilaration and a little fear accompany Corinne Bartschi when she dives into the air*

By Dianna Troyer

“Three, two, one. See ya!” shouts Corinne Bartschi before flinging herself off the Perrine Bridge.

With a parachute strapped to her back, she is intensely aware of time and vital numbers that will keep her alive.

Falling at about 16 feet per second from the 486-foot-tall bridge at Twin Falls, she has two to three seconds to freefall before she must deploy the canopy she has meticulously packed. If she

waits longer than 4 seconds, the canopy will not fill with air in time to land safely.

“It’s about 5 seconds to impact,”

Corinne says.

For the Raft River High School graduate, the risk is more than outweighed by the euphoria she feels for about a minute as she drifts down, guiding her canopy safely to the banks of the Snake River.

“Before every jump, I feel a complex set of emotions: anticipation, excitement and some fear,” she says. “My favorite part is the canopy flight. It’s peaceful and freeing.”

Corinne, 37, and her husband, Marc, live about 5 minutes from the bridge.

They jump several times a week when she is not working as a nurse practitioner and he has time off as a skydiving and BASE jumping instructor.

BASE jumping is an acronym for the objects from which people leap: buildings, antennas (or towers), spans (bridges or beams), and Earth, which refers to cliffs and canyons.

Corinne’s interest in BASE jumping evolved from skydiving.



**Left, after leaping from the Perrine Bridge into the Snake River Canyon, Corinne and Marc take a break while hiking out. Above, Corinne skydives in Utah. After a couple of hundred skydives, she says she was experienced enough to learn to BASE jump.**

When people ask her why she likes to fall from the sky, Corinne describes a feeling of clarity.

“It’s the one thing where I’m focused only on the task at hand,” she says. “I’m not worried about checking things off my to-do list, work or other tasks. My mind is clear, and I’m only focused on the jump. There are few things in life that help you tune out the rest of the world and stressful aspects of life. It’s great therapy.”

Since her first BASE jump from the Perrine Bridge in June 2017, she has jumped about 30 times.

Corinne describes herself as a newbie who is getting more comfortable.

“At first, the feeling of falling in dead air was such a strange feeling—different from skydiving with the relative wind—but it has become a more comfortable feeling,” she says.

Corinne became interested in BASE jumping after completing a couple of hundred skydives—a sport she began because she made a promise to her brother.

“I told him when he got home from the military, we would do a tandem

jump someday, but it takes preparation and education with skydiving first. The industry standard is usually 200 skydives before BASE jumping.”

Corinne credits her husband, Marc, with mentoring her after the two met through mutual friends. He learned to skydive and BASE jump after moving to Twin Falls to complete a physical therapy internship.

“I’d been skydiving a few years, and really enjoyed the culture and community of BASE jumping,” Marc says. “I went out to the bridge frequently, took lessons and did my first jump in 2010.”

Since then, he has since jumped 800 times in the United States. Two years ago, he decided to take time away from his job as a physical therapist to focus on skydiving and BASE jumping education and building his company, Twin Falls BASE Co.

Corinne and Marc’s love for aerial sports has led them around the world.

“We definitely plan our vacations around jumping,” says Corinne. “We usually take a winter skydiving trip to California, go to West Virginia’s New

River Gorge Bridge in October for their festival, and Moab for the Turkey Boogie in November.”

Marc recalls the most memorable places he has jumped.

“The Balinghe Bridge in China and Shipwreck Beach on Zakynthos Island in Greece definitely stand out,” he says. “Moab, Utah, is fun and a really pretty place to jump, too.”

Marc describes the second-by-second sensations during a jump.

“Freefall feels like weightlessness and freedom for a short period, with a certain rush and sensory excitement and anticipation for the next step in the process,” he says. “You can feel and hear your airspeed increase until you deploy the parachute with a great and brief sense of relief. Then you need to quickly and efficiently pilot the canopy to an appropriate landing zone.”

When Marc teaches beginning BASE jumpers, he reminds students of the risks.

“You have to be detail oriented and make wise decisions,” he says. “Critical thinking and problem solving are key skills needed to have a fun, safe and long-lived career in the sport. It’s not a sport you rush into. Your progression should be steady, and you should stay well within your own skill and ability level.” ■