

KRISTAN FISCHER

Travelling more Than 1000km down The west coast of The Us while sTrapped To noThing more Than a parachUTE, Two-stroke lawnmower and propeller may soUnd a Tad more Than exTreme, bUT for aUsTralian adventURer krisTan fischer ThaT's all in a day's work. lasT month krisTan claimed The inaUgUral icarus Trophy, which has been ToUTed as The world's ToUghesT air race, and is already bUsy planning his next oUTing. *CirCuit* caTches Up wiTh The adrenaline jUnkie To discover whaT's Up next.

Tell us a little about yourself.

How did you get into paramotoring?

I'd never actually flown a paramotor until a year ago. I've been snow kiting, kite surfing, speed riding, paragliding and skydiving for a while though, so the canopy side of things was familiar. I just had to learn how to take off!

When I was invited into this race, however, that's when I decided I had better learn how to fly with a motor!

Can you explain what paramotoring is to us?

If you can picture a parachute with a two-stroke lawnmower and propeller strapped to your back then you have some kind of idea. Now subtract away any notion you have of getting anywhere quickly and you're getting closer. Now finally add a terminal amount of fear for the instability you get when you are flying all day through thermals or 10,000-foot over snowy capped mountains and you'll have a much better appreciation for this 'sport'.

You've just won the Icarus Trophy, which saw you fly 1070km across America. How do you even begin preparing for a challenge like this?

I was fortunate enough to be sponsored by the best in the business and train exclusively under the one and only US national champ, Ryan Shaw, of Paradrenalin. I spent months under his expert tutelage in Arizona preparing and training. It was only because of Ryan I even had a chance!

What did you most enjoy about the challenge?

I enjoyed the amazing people I met along the way, the stunning pine forestry and scenery that I was endlessly hoping to not have to make an emergency landing into. But mostly it was the all out sprint to the finish line on the last day of the challenge. After all that time and distance for it to come down to a mere four minutes – that was cool!

What other crazy adventures have you been on? We've heard mention of riding WWII motorcycles into the Siberian Arctic Circle in winter.

Yes, I have spent some time in the Siberian Arctic on a WWII motorcycle. I recently crossed the Aussie desert on a motorcycle and my girlfriend, who was riding pillion, had

to kick a kangaroo at 120km/h to keep us upright!

In amongst that I've ridden 3000km down the length of Vietnam on a postie bike, 2700km across Peru and over the Andes on a Tuk Tuk and had plenty of other shenanigans too!

Do you have a favourite sport/adventuring to do?

At the moment my baby is skydiving. But when I'm particularly poor and can't afford to jump then I crank out some rock climbing and mountain biking.

What draws you to this kind of adventuring?

Its uniqueness. The people that I met in these fields are unlike any others and we all share a similar kind of crazy.

What can we find you doing in your downtime?

I don't do downtime. I'm that energiser bunny – my life is either about adventure or planning the next one.

What's up next now you've claimed the Icarus Trophy?

I have some super secret plans that haven't been released yet, but I can tell you it's another world first. It'll be somewhere hot, sandy and it's definitely going to be the next level of hard! ↩

