

# Altai Hok - Skiing

Deep in the Altai Mountains of North Asia skis are still considered an essential tool for travel and hunting during the long winters. One pair of handmade skis carries the skier through thick forests, up and down rugged mountains, and across frozen lakes and streams. The name Hok (hawk) is the Tuwa word for ski in the Altai Mountains. The Tuwas are the smallest ethnic group in the area and the most dedicated skiers.

We have been inspired by the do-it-all nature of the skis used in the Altai Mountains. It is from this that Altai Hok was born. The Hok is a ski to be used whenever and wherever there is snow. With a partial climbing skin integrated into the base, the ski climbs with ease. The skin also makes the ski slower and easier to control than traditional skis. The ski's short, wide design makes it incredibly maneuverable, ideal for thick woods and variable terrain, a truly all-purpose back country tool. The Altai Hok is equipped with universal bindings, which allows people to use their own foot wear while skiing.

Bridging cross-country skis and snowshoes, the Hok combines the maneuverability and ease of use found in snowshoes with the ski's efficiency of sliding forward rather than lifting and stepping with each stride.

This program is available at Donald F. Miller Park. Call the Nor-Ton Red Jacket Club, Inc. at 716-743-8033 to find out more information.

