

ANUMC ski information

The ANUMC runs a range of ski trips using different ski equipment. This documents attempts to clarify the options available to club members and where they should start if they are new to skiing. Further the club has new Alpine Touring (AT) ski gear this year and the hire arrangements for this equipment are detailed below.

Hiring AT ski equipment

To hire AT skis club members need to setup them up themselves and be passed as proficient at doing so. The club is not a professional ski hire service. It has a range of equipment that enables members to participate in its activities. However unlike a professional ski hire service the gear store officers (or trip leaders) will not take responsibility for setting up your skis. Ski bindings not setup properly raise the risk of injury. As such there will be numerous hands on sessions throughout the year that will run through how to set up AT ski and then check that members are proficient in doing so. Once club members have been to one of these sessions and passed as proficient they can hire the club's AT equipment.

Further, given the limited supply of AT equipment it will only be hired out for club trips and also not for use within ski resorts.

Types of ski trips and ski equipment

The ANUMC has three types of ski equipment. Each requires a slightly different technique and has advantages and disadvantages in different situations. Each is detailed below.

Alpine touring (AT)

AT skis allow people who ski in resort to ski and explore the backcountry. If you can ski in a resort you can use AT skis. Resort skiing is often called alpine skiing hence ski equipment that allows this technique to be taken on backcountry tour is known as alpine touring skis. The binding has two modes, a walk mode allowing ascending and a descent mode where the heel of the boots locks down and the ski functions as an alpine ski. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-LSBfWAEqw>.

Telemark

The club has a range of skis setup with cable telemark bindings. Using this equipment requires users to learn telemark technique. Telemark technique is different to that used by most resort skiers (telemark skiers are occasionally seen in ski resorts). Telemark technique is mostly perceived as more difficult to learn than alpine technique. The club's telemark skis have pattern bases meaning they are particularly suited to touring over rolling terrain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkW5oteGXpl>

We will organise telemark ski lesson on demand so if you're keen to do telemark ski lessons please let the ski touring officer know.

NNNBC

The club has a large collection of skis with NNNBC bindings and NNNBC boots. These function similarly to telemark skis but are lighter, the boots are softer and the binding does not give as much control over the ski. Telemark technique can be used with these skis however the softer boots and skinny skis mean steeper descents are particularly challenging. As such the NNNBC equipment is

particularly suited to cross country trails around perisher and other flatter tours.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCK2SYLILnA>

Where do I fit in

The club runs a variety of trip catering to different abilities.

Beginner/never been on snow, not confident skier.

- Before you can enjoy the full back country experience you have two skills to master, skiing and also snow camping. We encourage you to learn one at a time; begin to learn skiing in ski resort, practice snow camping with on an overnight snowshoe trip. Trips where participants are unfamiliar both with backcountry skills and ski skills are particularly demanding on trip leaders.
- You should aim to get your skiing ability up to being able confidently descend blue runs at ski resort (black at Selwyn). At this level it is much easier for trip leaders to guide you through the backcountry. You will not need to descend steep terrain on a backcountry trip but you want to be well inside your comfort zone.
- To develop beginners skiing technique the club will organise some lessons at ski resorts. Unfortunately lessons at ski resorts, including lifts tickets and ski hire, are expensive. However, learning to ski in a ski resort offers the best value as it allows you to focus purely on ski technique and delivers the fastest progression.

Intermediate skier with no back country access

- If you are comfortable descending a blue run at a ski resort then you are ready for a backcountry trip.
- However we suggest you start with a day trip first before going on overnight trips

Backcountry guru

- It is your time to shine, if you're a skilled skier and familiar with the backcountry you should be focusing on leading trips. If you haven't lead a trip before then start by co-leading a trip.