

ADAPTIVE SPORTS PARTNERS

of the NORTH COUNTRY

Rooted in the community, reaching out to all - all disabilities, all sports, all seasons



The TANDEMSKI

What is the Tandemski?



The Tandemski, made by Tessier, allows people with extreme physical challenges to enjoy being on the slopes. It is a specialized sit-ski with a comfortable chair for the skier which sits on a base of articulated skis. A trained pilot operates it from the back.

Who Can Benefit?

The Tandemski is designed for individuals who lack motor coordination, are physiologically fragile or whose disability leaves them with limited use of both lower body and upper body. Examples would be individuals with quadriplegia, cerebral palsy, ALS, or muscular dystrophy.

The Tandemski is designed for safety, comfort, and ease of use. When positioned into the seat and securely strapped in, the skier, accompanied by a specially trained pilot, can ride the chairlift and then enjoy the experience of safely skiing down a wide variety of ski trails in the company of friends and family members. Without the Tandemski, the individual with a disability such as those listed would be completely unable to experience the joy of skiing down a mountain trail.



How Does it Operate?



The skier using the Tandemski remains secured in the comfortable seat with a safety belt, which may be disengaged if required. The Tandemski can accommodate people of any age or weight (up to 250 lbs.) No prior training or skills are required on the part of the skier. The pilot provides basic riding and emergency instructions prior to going on the mountain.

The trained pilot operates the Tandemski by riding in back on the skis with feet placed in adjustable boot harnesses that also function as brakes. The pilot can exit the Tandemski quickly by stepping out of the boot harnesses. The Tandemski comes equipped with a safety brake system that doubles as a parking brake. The safety brake is tethered to the pilot by a safety line and automatically halts the Tandem ski in the event of the pilot falling.



The normal Tandemski seat position allows for a low center of gravity for the equipment and skier, which with widely separated skis, provides great stability and tipping resistance. Articulated skis allow for immense maneuverability. The pilot can carve out perfect turns with the edge of each ski by simply tilting the handlebar. Thus, the skier, like any other skier, can venture onto many busy slopes of varying degrees of difficulty.

The pilot and skier enjoy being integrated into mountain activity on the chairlifts as well as the trails. A unique pneumatic cylinder assist system lifts the seated skier for ease of loading and unloading to and from the chairlifts in complete safety. The Tandemski has a four point harness and carabineer system for emergency evacuation from the lift.

Additional Accessories

A full body weather protector is needed during wet or cold conditions. Many individuals appropriate for use of the Tandemski have thermal regulation issues. Specially designed mittens and over-boots are also valuable accessories.



Who Makes the Tandemski?

The Tandemski is becoming popular throughout the world. The manufacturer of the chair, Pierre Tessier, has a small company based in Saint Michel de Maurienne in Savoie. The company employs five workers and manufactures Tandemski chairs, dual skis, and uni-skis. The company only makes eight large tandems a year, so they must be ordered in advance. For more information and pictures you can visit the Tessier website at <http://dualski.com/tandemski-uk.htm>.

Personal Story

Since his disability Martin is no longer able to ski. Martin has ALS, sometimes known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The Tandemski allowed Martin to enjoy skiing again in the company of his young son, a memory that will last forever. After skiing with his Dad Martin's son went back to school quite excited. "My dad can't walk" he said, "but he sure can ski." That experience alone puts the Tandemski in the category of "priceless."



Please help us in purchasing, maintaining and training volunteers to use this valuable piece of equipment.