

# Sport of Wife-carrying



- Wife-carrying (Estonian: naisekandmine) as a general phenomenon has taken place for centuries. Believed to have originated in Finland in the 1800s, stories and legends have been passed down through the generations since. Theories abound regarding the origin, but the most common involve a man named Herkko Rosvo-Ronkainen, a thief who lived in the woods and stole from nearby villages. Some say Herkko and his gang would steal women/wives from the village on their backs.
- The images evoked when thinking of wife-carrying are not usually of a competitive variety, let alone one in which the prize is the wife's weight in beer. However, Estonia flexes its muscles and dominates this rapidly popularizing sport in a way that only Estonia can. The most popular, and deemed by some to be the most successful, carry is the "Estonian" style, in which the woman's legs are wrapped around the man's neck as she dangles upside-down over his back.
- The official Wife Carrying World Championship has been held since 1992. The obstacle course itself is 253.5 meters of obstacles, grass, and sand. There is one water obstacle with a depth of one meter, and two dry obstacles, typically log oriented.