



For Immediate Release

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High resolution images available at

[www.flickr.com/photos/42335321@N00/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/42335321@N00/)

More information: [www.eldoradocountyfair.org](http://www.eldoradocountyfair.org)

## On Your Mark...Get Set...PUSH!

*John M. Studebaker International Wheelbarrow Race  
is a true Gold Rush tradition and  
NOT for the faint of heart.*

Placerville, CA (June 10, 2011) -- The John M. Studebaker International Wheelbarrow Race takes place every year at the El Dorado County Fair and is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Placerville. If you're a newcomer to the county or visiting from out of town, you might be envisioning the wheelbarrow races we had as kids—where one person walks on his hands while another holds his legs and pushes.

You'd be wrong though.

John M. Studebaker lived in Placerville in 1853 and worked as a wheelbarrow maker after striking out as a miner. He got pretty successful with his wheelbarrows, moved on to making buggies and then horseless carriages, and ultimately earned world-wide fame as the creator of the Studebaker car company.

Today, and each year in Placerville for decades now, residents commemorate the Studebaker success story by pushing fully-loaded wheelbarrows around a messy obstacle course in the annual Studebaker wheelbarrow races.

These are real "wheelbarrow races" using wheelbarrows loaded down with at least 15-50 pounds of "ore."

Contestants must face obstacles along the way such as the Fallen Log, the Mine Shaft, Sutter's Mill, Rattlesnake Gulch, Cougar Pass, the Treacherous Trestles, and a waist-deep water crossing at Grizzly Hole.

All the while they must push their load of "ore" (sand) and must be careful not to spill, because anyone who crosses the finish line with less than the required minimum weight is disqualified.

John M. Studebaker International Wheelbarrow Race is one of the most popular annual events at the El Dorado County Fair and a real crowd-pleaser.

It's also a successful fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club, which uses proceeds from the event to support a long list of local youth-related causes.

The event begins at 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at grandstands and features a series of races for men, women, seniors, teens and children, as well as two-person team challenges for high school students and emergency personnel in the 911 team challenge.

The championship race offers a \$1,000 cash prize, while \$500 cash is at stake in the women's race.

Plaques are awarded to all race winners and all competitors receive a "Survivor" T-shirt.

The races are free to spectators with admission to the Fair. There is no charge for children and teens to participate in the races. Entry fees for adult contestants range from \$25-\$50 per race.

## **Calendar**

John M. Studebaker International Wheelbarrow Races

Sunday, June 19 at 5pm

Grandstands at the El Dorado County Fair

Free with admission to the Fair

The 2011 El Dorado County Fair, themed "Rockin' & Wranglin'", will take place Thursday through Sunday, June 16 to 19 in Placerville. For more information, visit [eldoradocountyfair.org](http://eldoradocountyfair.org) or call the Fair office at 530.621.5860.

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