



Cars, Airplanes, and Swamp Buggies

Presentation by Paul Pacter

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Today, we will look at five transportation-themed Naples activities.



Revs Institute





Naples Airport Viewing Area



Cars on Fifth



Swamp Buggies



Military Museum

From the mid-1800s, steamships from Punta Gorda carried passengers and freight to Naples. The famous Naples pier was built in 1888 not for fishing but for shipping.



In fact, Naples was accessible only by boat until 1914.



A very rough, muddy, and slow road from Fort Myers to Naples opened in 1914. A decade later, Naples opened up to the world when:

- In 1927, the first passenger and freight railroad arrived.
- In 1928, the Tamiami Trail opened as the first road east from Naples to Miami.

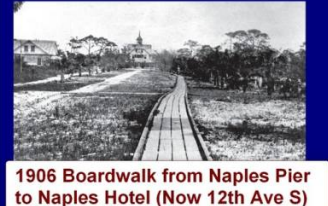
Keep in mind that during the 1930s the population of Naples was only about 400.



Naples Pier Originally Built 1888 for Steamships, Not Fishing



Orange Blossom Special Naples 1927



1906 Boardwalk from Naples Pier to Naples Hotel (Now 12th Ave S)



Tamiami Trail Opened 1928

And did you know there was Naples Airlines?



With that bit of history, let's turn now to the five transportation-related Naples activities.



Revs Institute

Revs Institute

Website: <https://revsinstitute.org/>

Where: 2500 S. Horseshoe Dr, Naples.

Get There: Airport Pulling, 4th light south of Golden Gate Blvd. West on Horseshoe Drive.

Admission: Must book in advance online. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Can tour on your own (\$20) but guided docent tour is much better (\$30).

What: Distinct collection of more than 100 automobiles manufactured between 1896 and 1995. Each rare and historically significant. *Collection of Miles Collier.*

Declared the finest sports car collection in America by The New York Times.

Library of rare books, photographs, documents, and ephemera catalogs the evolution of automobile design and the industry's influence on modern culture.

Preserved for scholars and connoisseurs.

Info on each car on their Website
revsinstitute.org/the-collection/

Click on a picture for more info. But seeing in person is unforgettable!



The Revs Institute attracts a worldwide audience of automotive enthusiasts, preservationists, and industry scholars.

A working museum. Nearly every vehicle in the Miles Collier Collections has been masterfully restored according to exacting historical standards and is maintained in peak operational condition.

And it's right here in Naples.

Open to the public.

Miles C Collier (age 74)
His grandfather, Barron Collier (1873-1939), founded Collier County.

Today he is president of Collier Enterprises of Naples.

He collects and races vintage cars.

Revs Institute is his personal collection.

Recently named "world's No. 1 car collector" by *The Key*, published by the Classic Car Trust.

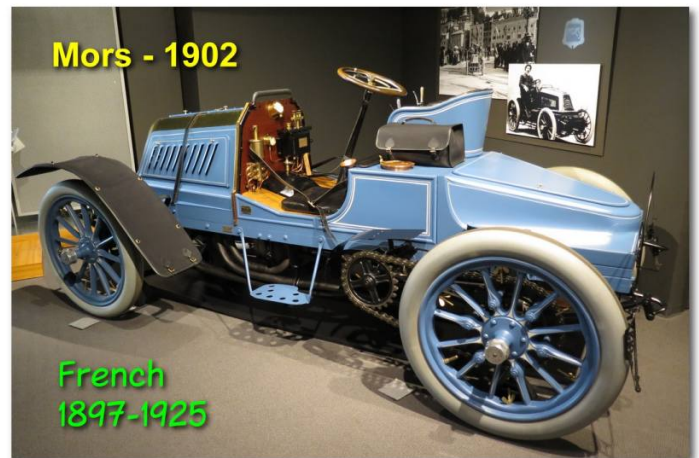


Revs Institute
2500 S. Horseshoe Drive
Naples



Mors - 1902

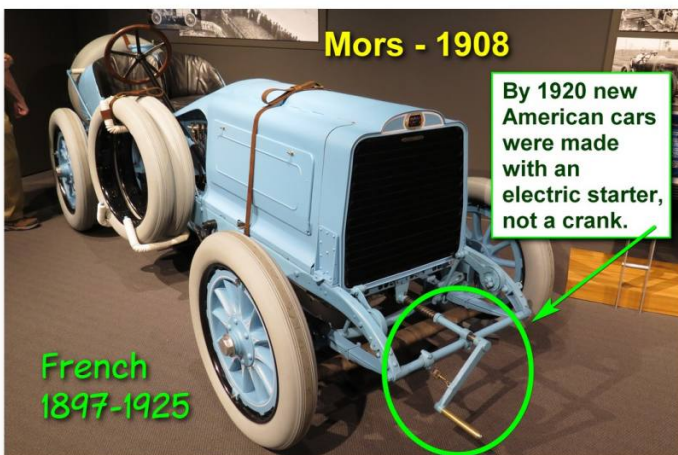
French
1897-1925



Mors - 1908

By 1920 new American cars were made with an electric starter, not a crank.

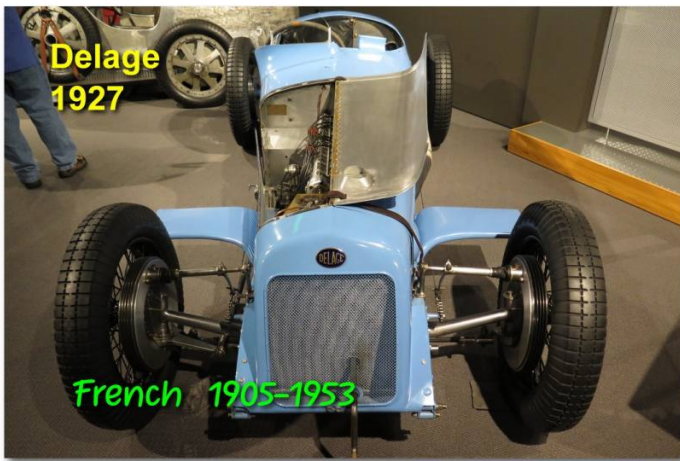
French
1897-1925



Mercedes
1914

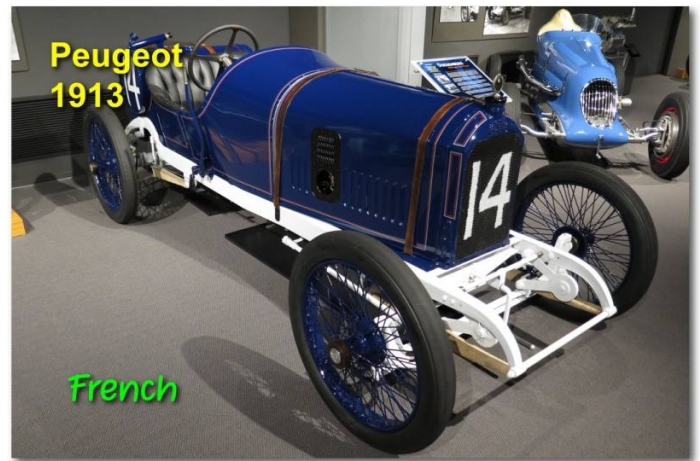
German





Delage
1927

French 1905-1953



Peugeot
1913

French



Duesenberg
1933

American 1913-1937



Maserati - 1938

Italian



Mercedes Benz
1939

German



Cooper - 1959

British 1946-1969



Guerney Eagle - 1967

American



Jorgensen Eagle - 1974

American
Won Indy 500 1975



Bentley 1930
British



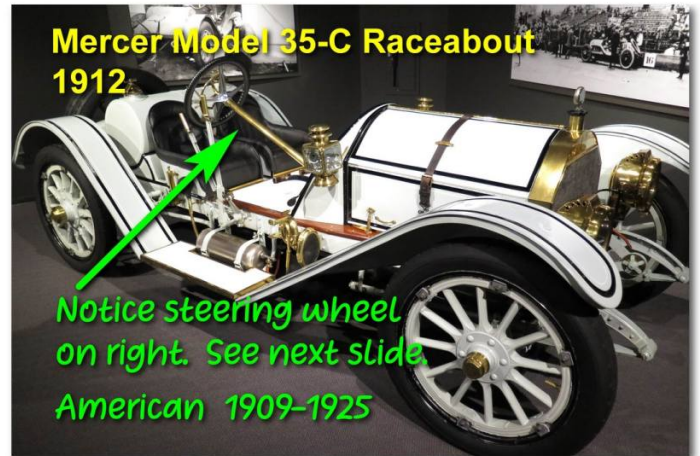
Bentley 1932
British



Hispano Suiza 1912

Spanish

Jess Yarger was a Senior Docent. He was one of the most knowledgeable, respected, and sought-after guides at Revs.



Mercer Model 35-C Raceabout 1912

Notice steering wheel on right. See next slide.
American 1909-1925

Steering Wheel Left or Right Side?

New York, in 1804, became the first State to prescribe right-hand travel on all public highways.

By the Civil War, every State adopted.

But even with mandated right-hand travel, in the buggies and wagons drivers tended to sit on the right so they could ensure their buggy or wagon didn't run into a roadside ditch.



For autos, steering wheel was introduced in 1898.

Car makers usually copied existing practice and placed the driver on the curbside. Thus, most American cars produced before 1910 were made with right-side driver seating, although intended for right-side driving.

That changed with Model-T Ford. By 1915, steering wheels were on the left.



Mercedes 1923

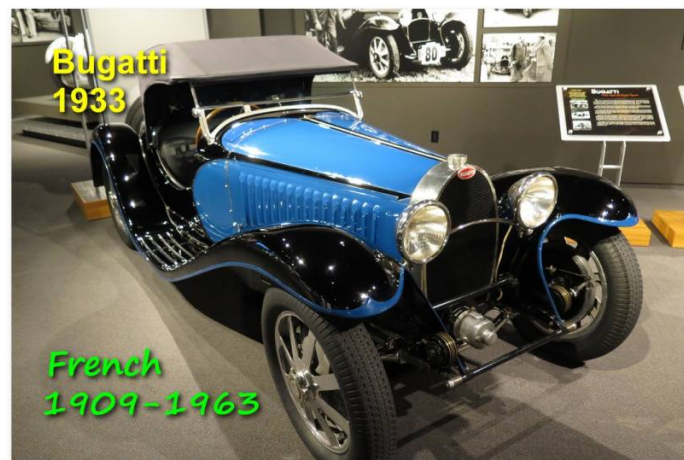
German



Lancia - 1927

Italian

Founded 1906
Still Making Cars



Cadillac Series 1 "Le Monstre"
1950

*American LeMans
Chassis Was Standard Cadillac*

Ferrari
1948

The story of
this car is on
the next slide.

Italian

The Revs Institute was founded by Miles Collier in 2008.
He is the grandson of Barron Collier who founded Collier
County, Florida in 1923.

His father, also named Miles, and his uncle Sam Collier,
were pioneering race car drivers.
Sam was a founder of the
Automobile Racing Club of America.

In 1949 Sam Collier finished third
overall in the Seneca Cup Race at
Watkins Glen, NY. He and Miles
drove a Cadillac in the 1950 24-Hours of
Le Mans; they finished tenth.

Sam was killed while leading the 1950
Watkins Glen Grand Prix, held on public
roads around Watkins Glen, Sept 23, 1950



Miles & Sam 1950



1948 Ferrari #54

Cunningham 1952

*American.
B S Cunningham Co.
Racing 1951-1955*

Ferrari Superafrica 1962

Italian

Corvette
1963

American

McLaren 1995
Fastest Car in the Museum

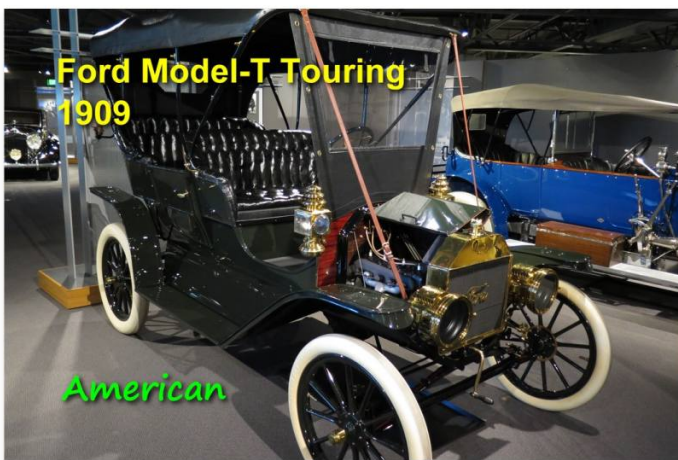
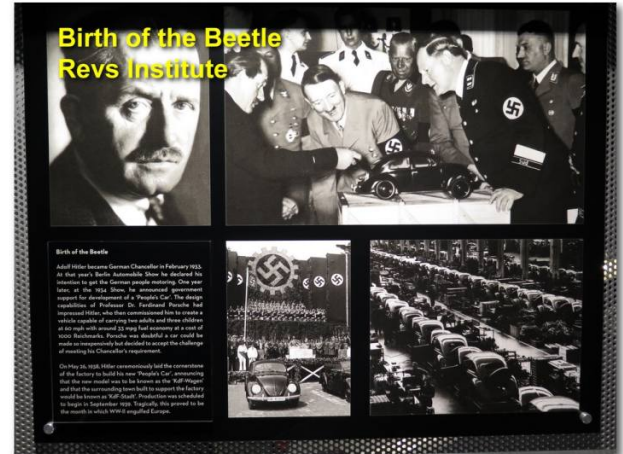
British Top Speed 240 mph

Ferrari 1965

Italian



1933: Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.
1934: Hitler announces plan for low-cost "people's car" (Volkswagen).
 – Hitler commissions Ferdinand Porsche to design and build.
1938: Hitler lays cornerstone for Volkswagen factory in Wolfsburg (northern Germany).
1939: VW production begins.
1939: WWII begins.

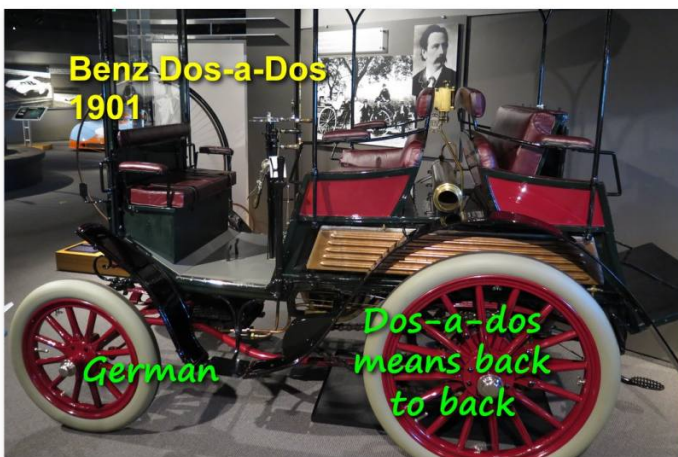


Ford Model T

- Produced 1908-1927.
- 15,000,000 sold.
- 20-horsepower motor.
- Top speed 42 mph.
- 2-speed transmission.
- Rear wheel drive.
- By 1918, 50% of all cars in USA were Model-Ts.

Parked recently at Publix, Neapolitan Way at US-41.

Affordable. Reliable. Made car travel available to middle-class Americans.





Duesenberg Coming Back?

In August 2021, a Nevada company called Duesenberg Technologies (OTC DUSYF, now around 24 cents a share) announced plans to produce electric vehicle replicas of 1920s and 1930s Duesenberg cars.

Under US government rules, they can make up to 325 cars that do not meet all of 2021's auto safety and emission standards.

1930 Original

Replica Designs
www.duesenbertech.com



3.1 million Trabbis produced in East Germany 1957-1991. Notoriously poor quality. Often breaking down even when new. Many Trabant jokes online:

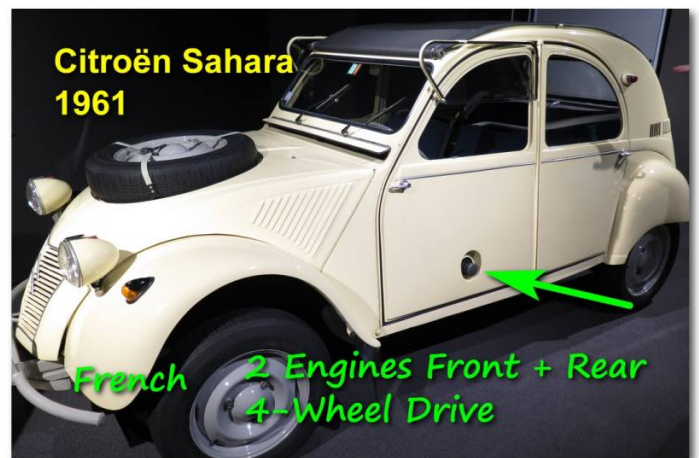
Q. When does the Trabant reach its top speed?
A. When it's being towed.

Q. How do you double the value of a Trabant?
A. Fill up the tank.

Q. Why does a Trabant have a heater at the back?
A. To keep your hands warm when you're pushing it.

Q. Why does the Trabant have two exhaust pipes?
A. So you can use it as a wheelbarrow.

Q. What's on page 4 of the Trabant User's Manual?
A. The bus schedule.





Cars on Fifth
Website: <https://www.carsonfifth.com/>
Where: Fifth Ave South, downtown Naples.
Get There: 5th Ave South, West of US-41.
Admission: \$30 to benefit St Matthew's House.
When: Saturday in early February.
 – Saturday Feb 5, 2022 – 10am to 4pm.
 – At 4pm: Cars parade off 5th Avenue.

What: Annual luxury and exotic car show on Fifth Avenue South in Naples.
 – Organized by the Naples Chapter of the Ferrari Club of America.
 – More than 650 cars. Including 150 Ferraris, 65 Corvettes, 80 muscle cars.
 – Proceeds benefit St. Matthew's House. Over \$500,000 raised each year.
 – Peripheral events include a 200-car auction the day before the show.



Cars on Fifth 2022 650 Cars!
Layout of Fifth Avenue South

2022 EVENT MAP AND SCHEDULE

5th Avenue South

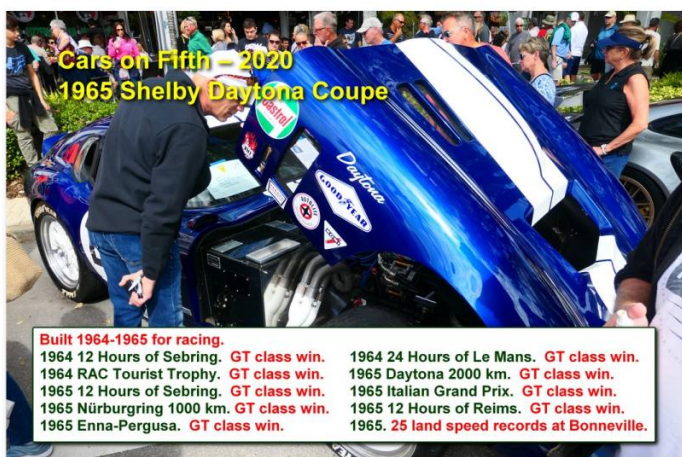
PRESENTED BY: NAPERES CHAPTER, ST. MATTHEW'S HOUSE

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT: ST. MATTHEW'S HOUSE

CARS ON 5TH SCHEDULE

PARKING / SHUTTLE INFORMATION





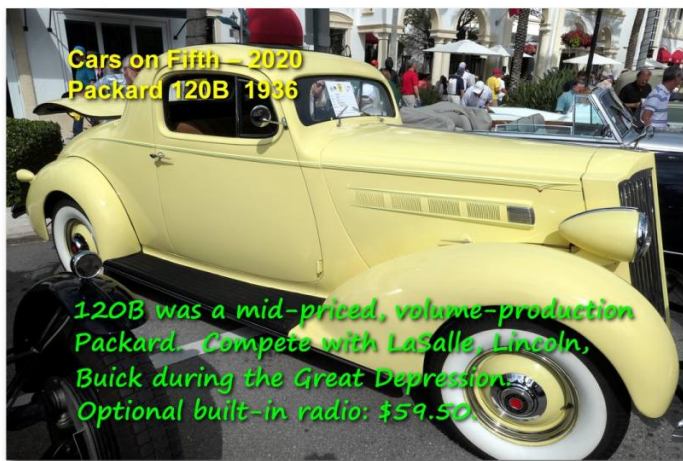


Corvette
Chevrolet Div. of GM.
First produced 1953.
Models C1 to (today) C8.
Fiberglass or composite body.
Total production to date 1,750,000.
– 1953-2019 front-engine.
– Since 2020 mid-engine.
Since 1981 made in Bowling Green, KY.
Corvette Museum: Bowling Green, KY









Swamp Buggy Races
Website: www.swampbuggy.com/
Where: Florida Sports Park, 8520 Rattlesnake Hammock Rd, Naples 34114.
Get There: Just east of Collier Blvd. Turn on Lord's Way. Free parking.
When: Dec 4 and 5, 2021.
 Jan. 29 and 30, 2022.
 March 12 and 13, 2022.
Admission: Sat 11am to 5pm is trials \$10. Sun 10:30am-5:30pm is races, \$17.

What: Naples is the only swamp buggy race track left in the USA. Mile O' Mud. For over 70 years. About 18 inches of water (much deeper in the 'slip holes').

Track mimics the Everglades terrain.

Six categories of buggies: Ranging from standard Jeeps with snorkels to giant monsters with NASCAR racing engines.

What is a swamp buggy:

Swamp buggy is a purpose-built or modified motor vehicle that can move about on dry land, shallow mud, sand, shallow water, and sometimes deep mud. Designed for fun or racing.

– 4, 6, or 8 cylinder.

– 2 or 4 wheel drive.

Generally 2 or 3 buggies race at a time.
More for Jeeps.

Some Examples:

Glades Buggy
Large rear tires.
Sits low in the water.



Palm Beach Buggy
High raised platform
on 4 large tires.



Two More Examples:

Jeep with air-cooled engine



NASCAR engine



The water is generally 18 inches deep, mud base, but there are some sink-holes that can submerge the buggy completely.



Drivers must be 18 (16 for the air-cooled and jeep classes).

There are strict, written rules.

All buggies are inspected before and after the race.

Gasoline is also inspected after the race.

Track record is about 48 seconds. Of course jeeps, air cooled, and 4-cylinder engines are a lot slower.

Naples Sports Park
Home of Swamp Buggy Races









Edward H Frank
(born 1902) moved to
Arcadia 1914, Bonita
1921, Naples 1927.

**Opened Naples's first
garage (on 5th Ave)
and first restaurant.**

**Built the first swamp buggy 1919 for
construction in swampy terrain and hunting.**

**This buggy, built in 1920s, is at the Collier
County Museum.**



Sign in Freedom Park

erlested in 1920. Soon to follow was Frank's car
erlested, in 1921, and the first commercial bu
in 5th Ave. The first commercial bu
the creator of the Swamp Buggy. (at right) Ed Frank
ned the northern-most portion of Freedom Park
680.

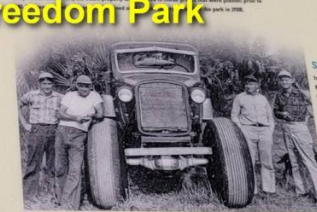
Leischmann (1900-1968)

a Vacationer to Naples Visionary

s K. Fleischmann, whose grandfather established
shmann Yeast, came to Naples from Cincinnati
winter visitor in 1946. This first visit led to his
notable projects throughout the city, such as
Hard Street South Shopping District. Fleischmann
ed legendary Henry Nahrings' arboretum in
Naples.

He also
Judevi
Milvan
Julius
acquire
YATOL
OL.

The property that you are currently standing on once looked much different from the one you see
today. At one time this property was used as a library that was donated prior to
the creation of the Swamp Buggy. (at right) Ed Frank
ned the northern-most portion of Freedom Park
680.



Swamp Buggy

In 1918-1919, combining parts from a
Model-T Ford and a bucket seat from a
WWI airplane, Ed Frank created the
first swamp buggy. Over the years, he
improved his design using airplane tires
and incorporating four-wheel drive with
interlocking front and rear wheels.
This photo appeared on the front page of
the Collier County News in 1948 and
signified the birth of the Swamp Buggy
Races. (at right) Ed Frank & Roy W. Smith
Swamp Buggy Races in 1948.

**"In 1918-1919, combining parts from a Model-T Ford and a bucket
seat from a WWI airplane, Ed Frank created the first swamp
buggy. Over the years he improved his design using airplane
tires and incorporating four-wheel drive with interlocking front
and rear wheels.**

**"This photo appeared on the front page of the Collier County
News in 1948 and signified the birth of the Swamp Buggy Races."**



**A Few
Historic
Photos**



1950s



1950s



1952



1930s



1939

Buggy Being Towed - Early 1950s

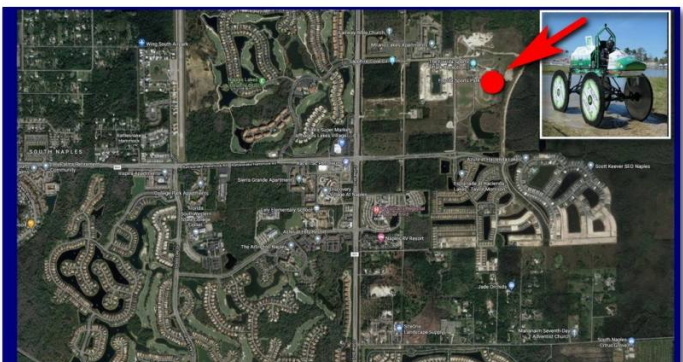


Naples Sports Park

Today

Early 1960s

"Mile o Mud"



**Let's hope that property development does not overtake
the last Swamp Buggy Race Track in the USA.**



Naples Airport – Airplane Viewing Area
Where: At Naples Airport, North Road.
Get There: Airport-Pulling Road between Golden Gate Pkwy and Davis Blvd. West on North Road until you reach the runway. Viewing area covered. Picnic tables.
When: Open dawn to dusk.
What: Sit in the shade and watch planes take off and land on runway 5/23. Picnic tables. Loudspeaker with control tower conversations with planes. Bathrooms.

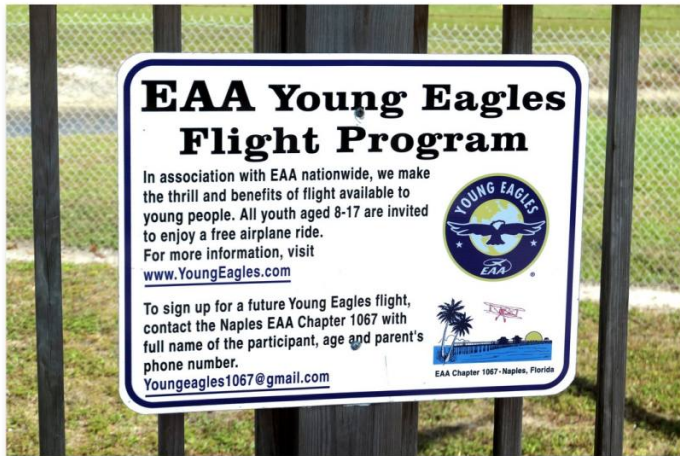




**Runway 5/23 6,600 feet.
Runway 14/32 5,000 feet.
Takeoff and landing into the wind.**



So, depending on the wind, there may not be anything to see at the viewing area.



America's Military and First Responders Museum



America's Military and First Responders Museum

Website: www.amfrm.org

Where: At Naples Airport, 500 Terminal Drive, Naples 34104

Get There: Airport-Pulling Road between Golden Gate Pkwy and Davis Blvd. West on North Road. Turn on Terminal Drive.

Museum is in a separate room in the main airport terminal building.

When: Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm.
Sunday Noon-3pm.

Admission: Free. *Donations accepted.*

What: Stories of veterans through military artifacts from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf wars.

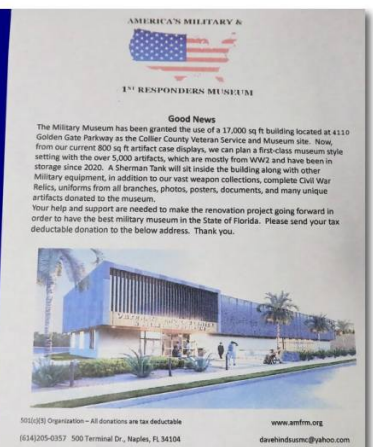
More than 10,000 historical artifacts such as printed materials, weapons, uniforms, medals, ribbons, and models.

Museum is usually staffed by one or more veterans who are happy to explain exhibits and share interesting personal stories.

The Naples Airport is a fitting space for the museum since it was built by the Army Corps of Engineers during WWII to train pilots for the Pacific theater conflict.

At the peak of the war, the airport was home to more than 75 fighter and bomber aircraft as well as the pilots and aerial gunners who trained at the base.

Museum will be moving to 4110 Golden Gate Pkwy in new Veterans Service Center. 10X current floor space!



Naples Airport History

- Built in 1942 as Naples Army Airfield by US Army Air Forces.
- Provided basic flight training on Fairchild PT-19s.
- In addition to flight training, Naples Army Airfield was a sub-base to Buckingham Army Airfield (Fort Myers) for gunnery training.
- Deactivated on November 1, 1945. Turned over to Naples city government as a public airport.
- Buckingham Army Airfield was sold to a developer and is now Lehigh Acres section of Fort Myers.



Fairchild PT-19

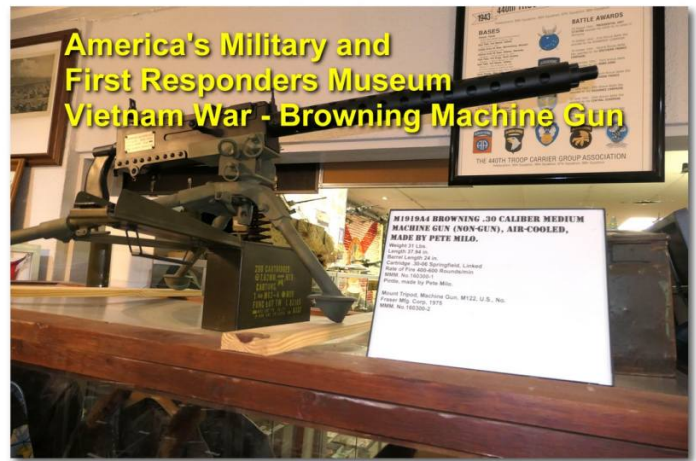








**America's Military and First Responders Museum
World War II - Soviet Army**



**America's Military and First Responders Museum
Vietnam War - Browning Machine Gun**



**America's Military and First Responders Museum
Personal Stories**



**America's Military and First Responders Museum
Personal Stories**



**America's Military and First Responders Museum
Iraq**



**America's Military and First Responders Museum
Vietnam War - Huey Helicopter**



**America's Military and First Responders Museum
Vietnam War**



**America's Military and First Responders Museum
Vietnam War**

I hope you enjoyed our look at Cars,
Swamp Buggies, and Planes in Naples.



Revs Institute

**THE
END**



Naples Airport Viewing Area



Cars on Fifth



Swamp Buggies



Military Museum