

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.







### Today, we will look at five transportationthemed Naples activities.







Naples Airport Viewing Area Revs Institute







Cars on Fifth

Swamp Buggies Military Museum

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.

## 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**

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.

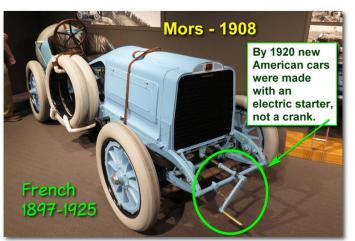
The Revs Institute attracts a worldwide audience of automotive enthusiasts, preservationists, and industry scholars.

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.





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

Click on a picture for more inf 3962 Ferant 400 Superamerica more information in the info









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.



























**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.













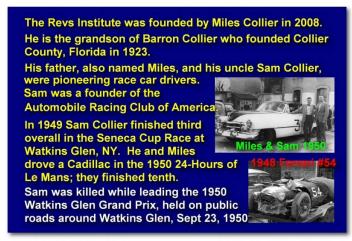
























1933: Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.

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.

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



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





# **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.



3.1 million Trabbis producted 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.













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**

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.





















































































### **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').

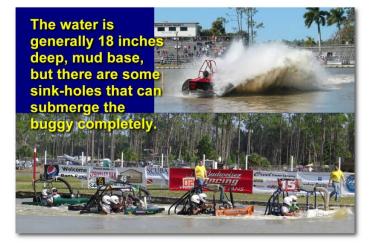
Track mimics the Everglades terrain.

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

## Some Examples:

Glades Buggy Large rear tires. Sits low in the water. Palm Beach Buggy High raised platform on 4 large tires.







#### 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.

#### **Two More Examples:**

Jeep with aircooled engine NASCAR engine





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.



















































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.







A Few Historic Photos















Today

Early 1960s

"Mile o Mud"



























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.











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.

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.

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.



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 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
  - Fairchild PT-19
- 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.

































































