

CAMP PETALUMA

The 40th Annual West Coast Military Vehicle Rally & Swap Meet

April 18-23, 2017

(Replaces the Tower Park Venue)

San Francisco/Petaluma KOA
20 Rainsville Road
Petaluma, CA 94952

BASIC TRAINING

With updates 4/13/17

This is the continuation of the largest annual MV swap meet and MV gathering west of the Mississippi. It will be at a large KOA campground in Sonoma County. This is the fourth venue for the annual Spring Meet that **started 40 years ago**. It is being moved from Tower Park Resort because the new owner, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp Resorts, is converting much of that campground to RV pull-through sites, adding many cabins, and a water park, thus shrinking the number of campsites. It is now too small for the Spring meet but we'll be back there for the Fall version, September 19-24, 2017.

Here are highlights of the Spring 2017 event and venue:

- ✪ Official event is Tuesday – Sunday but the discounted group rates will be good for “early birds” arriving the prior Sunday
- ✪ No MV registration required
- ✪ No fee for those selling at their campsites. No vending outside of campsites
- ✪ Day use visitors including those with MVs are welcome. Important details below
- ✪ You are welcome to drive your MV around the campground
- ✪ Hotels, restaurants, antique stores and more are a short drive away
- ✪ As of April 12, 2017, the numbered campsites & cabins have been reserved but there might be cancellations. There are dry camping sites available in the group area for a low daily fee
- ✪ As in the past, our own Jo-Ann Lesser is our “Wagonmaster” and will assign all campsites and cabins. Only then will KOA accept your deposit. Contact her with your request via her contact info below
- ✪ Last Sunday is pull-out day, not a good show day
- ✪ Four-night minimum stay, any four nights, except in the group dry camping area
- ✪ Communal, outdoor, roofed kitchen in the north area
- ✪ Recreation hall and tent
- ✪ Pool, sauna, hot tub, dog park, wi-fi, fire rings & firewood

- ✪ Washers, dryers, restrooms with showers
- ✪ Trailer and overflow parking for campers in the storage yard, north end
- ✪ Scenic beauty abounds here, and there is no more chance of rain than at Lodi

CAMPING

KOA has a wide variety of cabins, RV and tent campsites, and dry camping options. There is a four-night minimum stay – any four nights except for inside the \$10/night group dry camp areas. This was our concession to receive the best rates

Campers and cabin renters in numbered sites will receive four wristbands, which may be kept in your pocket, and vehicle passes. KOA rules say two vehicles per campsite and more may be allowed for an extra charge.

Campers may leave wristbands at the office on “will call” for friends/family.

Each camper in the group area will pay a \$10 fee per person per day for one event wristband, a tent or other camping unit, and one vehicle

If you have been assigned a cabin or campsite by Jo-Ann, you MUST contact KOA to put a deposit on it ASAP or risk losing it! Just like at Tower Park. Sites with no deposit will be offered to someone else at any time

If you have a site reserved and are not going to use it but want to keep the reservation for that site for the following year, tell Jo-Ann

Let her know if you want to share a site. Many of the sites are quite large with vehicle access on two sides. KOA has a rate for sharing a site and should be able to place a second picnic table with some notice

To reserve your site for Spring 2018 you MUST make that reservation by Sunday April 23, 2017 (end of this meet). If you want to try to get a different site, reserve yours first and later tell Jo-Ann what you want to do. After this event, KOA will give her a report of unreserved campsites for her to fill for the 2018 meet

DAY VISITORS

Day visitors will pay a \$10 fee per day and receive wristbands. This is much like any commercial show. Note that this fee is the same as the dry camping fee per person in the group area.

Since many of our participants will not use all four of their wristbands or use all of the parking space at their campsite, it may be possible to team up with others. See the

interactive campground map on this website to learn which of your friends are camping

As of this writing, a day visitor driving a MV may drive into the campground only if he has a parking pass left for him at the office or otherwise given to him by a camper or by Dave Ball or John Neuenburg. If this loosens up we will let you know.

See next section about day visitor parking.

IMPORTANT PARKING INFO!

CAMPERS AND CABIN RENTERS: Most campsites and cabins have paved or gravel vehicle parking areas. DO NOT park on lawns if soft so that KOA will have to repair it. This may drive up our rates next year. We do not know if we can get away with parallel parking on roads. Obviously if a fire truck can't pass it will be a problem! Most campers will get two vehicle passes. Extras may be available for a fee.

TRAILER PARKING LOT: There is a large RV storage lot at the north end next to the north Group Camping Area. Please park non-MV trailers there, plus your pickup or car if necessary. Even if you have space in your campsite, freeing up room can allow your buddy to park his extra MV there. Work out a deal!

GENERAL VISITOR PARKING AND HEAVY TRAILER UNLOADING, PARKING:

There is very little visitor parking at KOA. Use the gravel lot across from Henny Penny Restaurant, at Stony Point Road and Petaluma Blvd North. This is about 650 yards from the KOA entrance road. KOA will run a shuttle to and from camp on the half hour from 1000 to 1700. This is the best place to offload large MVs if you can drive them in. If the MV cannot be driven on the street you might try unloading on Rainsville Road by the KOA entrance road. A big rig should not be driven on the KOA entrance road unless you have arranged to enter the campground with it for turning around. The entrance road does not have room for that. Recon the layout first.

CAMPERS WITH MILITARY VEHICLES: We should have room for all MVs however they should park at campsites unless a space has been assigned by MVCC President Dave Ball or Activities Coordinator John Neuenburg. See contact info below. Respect all coned or other reserved areas! With the grass fields below the campground being soggy, we do not have endless space. You may have to park your civilian vehicle in the trailer storage yard, in a buddy's campsite, or the offsite lot to make room for your MVs.

NON-CAMPERS WITH MILITARY VEHICLES: You must either work with a friend who has space at his campsite (possibly using one of his wristbands and car passes left at the office under your name), or ask us for a spot. KOA will charge campers for extra vehicle passes. An option is to rent a dry camp space in the Group Camp Area for \$10/night so you can park and display your vehicle (and ice chest) when not driving around camp. This area does not have the four-night minimum. Contact Jo-Ann Lesser about this. To learn who has rented which campsite or cabin, see the interactive map on this website. If

you want MVCC member contact info, we might have it.

OTHER OFFSITE PARKING shouldn't be needed but it may be available at the Henny Penny Restaurant parking lot or any legal parking space in the area. Note that the big lot at Cattlemen's Restaurant might look inviting but it is used when they open at 4 pm!

IF YOU HAVE EXTRA VEHICLE SPACE IN YOUR CAMPSITE: Please tell John Neuenburg and he will try to put you together with someone who needs room for a MV!

BEFORE YOU CONTACT US FOR THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT PARKING, DISPLAY SPACE, OR ANYTHING ELSE, CHECK OUT THE CAMP PETALUMA POST ON THE "EVENTS" FORUM ON WWW.G503.COM HERE:
<http://g503.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=38&t=281399>

UNIFORMS, WEAPONS, BLANK FIRE

As usual with our Spring and Fall swap meets, individuals are encouraged to wear obsolete uniforms or clothing whenever they want. There is nothing like a live mannequin to show off collectibles and historical representations.

Those wishing to vertically display WW2 Axis or other former enemy-of-the-U.S. militaria must contact John for special instructions.

Live ammunition is not allowed at this event

Firing blanks or pyrotechnics is not allowed. A portion of the center of the campground will be occupied by campers who stay here over the winter while working in the region. They probably won't like the noise.

Live firearms must be rendered "incapable of immediate fire" by leaving key parts off, or zip-tying actions or triggers so they are not operational.

ACTIVITIES

See the tentative Activities Schedule on this website. Here is the link:
http://www.mvccnews.net/event_docs/spring-meet/cp_activities_17.pdf

CONTACT INFO

KOA: <http://koa.com/campgrounds/san-francisco/> or 707-763-1492

MVCC President Dave Ball: vought@msn.com or 408-805-0065 or cabin #247

MVCC Camp Petaluma Activities Coordinator John Neuenburg: in_garage@hotmail.com
or 415-847-2801 or cabin #282

MVCC Camping Wagon Master Jo-Ann Lesser: mamalesser@yahoo.com or 408-238-8277 or cabin #80