



Photo taken 9/15/19

Goodbye Dakota (2/22/07—9/16/19)

This week, on Monday, Dakota unexpectedly passed away. This makes two dogs we have recently lost in our family. Chris' Seven, at 15 1/2 years old, passed away on August 5th.



On Monday, Dakota was acting perfectly normal when we took her to the park until she wasn't. About a third of the way into our walk, she had trouble walking. We immediately took her home. She laid down in the living room not able to stand any longer. Then, just like that, she was gone. Her sudden departure is very difficult for us especially she was doing just fine until Monday, keeping up with us at the park, even playing with Brooklyn right before her walking became an issue. She was all set to go to her scent work class the next day, a class she loved. In fact, just the day before on Sunday, she was sitting in the rec room barking at me to come do scent work training with her.

When we were at the park, her biggest enjoyment was to collect sticks (as if it were her calling) in all sizes and shapes to carry back to our car.

In memory of her, please gather a stick or two you know she'd enjoy. [Dakota Photo Gallery](#)



Special Family Time

Tim, Kathy, Rylan, Aubrey & Sierra all showed up Labor Day Weekend along with Chris, who was picked up by Kathy and the kids on the way down from Oregon. Tim flew down for meetings in our area then arrived via Uber.

Tim rented a moving truck to pack up furniture and household items still at their Sonoma house (which is currently being rented out) and at our house, something they have been looking forward to all summer—having ALL their stuff in the house they bought in June.

The weekend included a very special night out to specifically celebrate Robert's 70th *with* family. With the Pines in Costa Rica, he and I had a quiet celebration at home on his actual birthday (August 15th). Before that, we celebrated in Stehekin without the Pines or Chris.

We all went to Cordeiro's Steakhouse in Napa, a very fancy restaurant indeed, to enjoy an upscale dinner prepared to perfection. The waitstaff was so attentive, and dessert was fabulous. Both Robert and Tim's desserts included the words Happy Birthday written in chocolate around the rim of their plates Yes, cake for Tim too; he turned 45 August 28th.

And there were pool parties too. Rylan, Aubrey, and Sierra all had friends over Saturday and Sunday. With perfect swimming weather, the kids were in the pool for hours.



A New Look & Feel

After nearly 20 years, it was time to replace the wall to wall carpeting in our living room. We chose to move all the furniture ourselves, well, actually I didn't do much moving because, thankfully, Robert built a furniture dolly. Carpet was installed last week.



Halfway There

Although no Grand Championship majors yet, Brooklyn now has 13 of 25 points toward becoming an AKC Grand Champion.

