

Monkey Pod Dolphins

Shown here on the right are my only set of Dolphins. As I say in other locations, I was a Dedicated Delinquent Non-Qual aka a DDNQ. I gave the qualification process a couple of shots on a couple of different boats, but it was never a concerted effort on my part. I felt that no matter what I did, I could never measure up to ships company sailors, I was always going to be “just a rider – a spook”.



That being said, I have a great deal of respect for those that do get qualified, and I respect the honor the medal represents. Those that do earn the dolphins should indeed wear them with pride. While people like me use them to display that respect. My dolphins at one point in time or another have been displayed on the walls of nearly every office I have occupied, been on the walls of various rooms in my homes; living room, bedrooms, and playrooms.



Additionally, they have been a focal point of a number of podcasts I have participated in where the topic was about Submarine Service.

Pete Neild's Pursuit of Happiness, "See Stories", JRP0271

<https://www.youtube.com/live/JVFg7pjSBm0?si=tyPFk5Vgfk4x-SQk>

Eureka Moments Pete Neild JRP0041

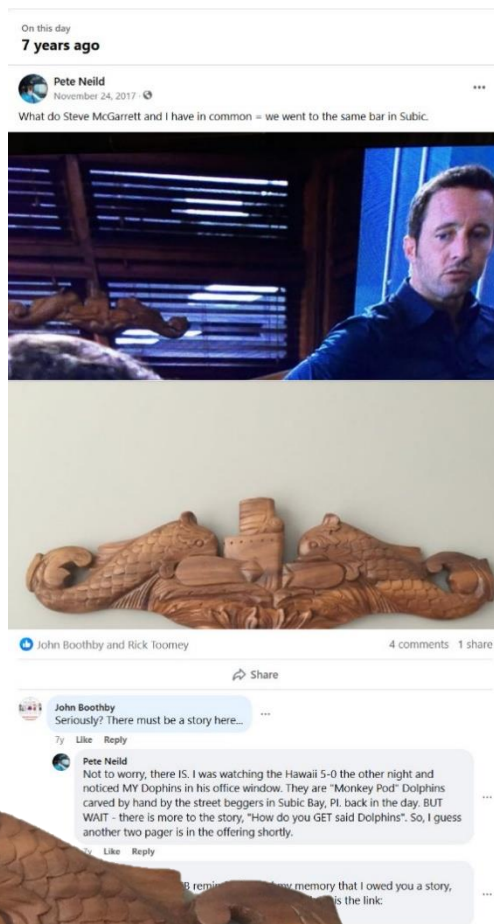
https://youtu.be/jc_riu3XoN4?si=NdUuEEBKyMvGnMZ

Captain Charles R. MacVean, USS Seawolf, Down Deep

<https://www.youtube.com/live/83bO8fj5Zyw?si=lk0b02atmTYz8b9y>

In the inserted FB post the upper picture shows a scene from the old “Hawaii 5-0” with Steve McGarrett in his office. There in the window was a carved set of “monkey pod” dolphins. My attention was always drawn to them in every included scene of them. It would rush me back to my memories of riding the boats on their WESTPACs (Patrols in the **Western Pacific**). There was only one spot where those dolphins could be obtained. That place was the long Magsaysay Drive down the middle of Olongapo on the north side of Subic Bay. Along Magsaysay Dr. in those days were all the bars and houses of ill-repute where the sailors would hang out. The street itself was jam packed all the time with locals and sailors, where the “locals” would be selling what-ever they could to the sailors, from shoeshines to clothing and in that mix of homemade “products” of labor, were carved monkey pod pieces of art.

Before I cover the other pieces of monkey pod art pieces I have. Here is a blown-up picture of that in the Facebook post so that you can make out a little more detail. Back when I bought them, I was impressed with the replication details. The bow planes pivot mechanism being at the top of the heap. I only have a couple of critical points. The first being the split of the bow wake, and the second being the centering of the boat, those two things are the only deviations I can spot from the Navy's specified creation.



In the paper I wrote about [being Qualified](#), I showed a picture of the mug I was given to qualify for my DBF pins.



Again, a piece of Monkey Pod artwork. In the other paper, I show a pack of cigarettes to provide some visual scale. Above here I use a bottle of Smirnoff, a little closer representation of the ceremony I went through for this item.

The next piece of Monkey pod is my set of “door chimes”. Hanging it on a door causes the little ball “clappers” to strike their respective strings, on every opening and closing of the door. It plays a very short duration set of notes, bidding welcome or blessing the person departing with a little melody. This particular piece of Monkey Pod provides the only hint of age. You will note that on the left side right alongside the mouth one small piece of wood is missing. It broke off because it was not packed well for the cross-country trip from Groton to San Diego when I got out of the Navy. Fortunately, it did not change the notes played.



And then finally, while I end this paper on my collection of Monkey Pod artwork from Subic bay with the set of Dolphins again. You will note that they are accompanied by two pieces representing the Navy Shield. I use these two pieces as a form of parentheses for my ship’s plaques, minus the five I recently donated to the San Diego Maritime Museum.

