

## Interview Log

**Interviewee:** Ronnie Haddaway **Tape #:**  
MAAF/KF/MD/FT6.17.99.240

**Interviewer:** Kelly Feltault **# of Tapes:** 1

**Date:** 6/17/99 **# of Sides:** 2

**Location:** Bozman MD

**Topic:** model ship building, historical replications

**Corresponding Photography Log #:** yes

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like many other local artists, Ronnie displays his work at a restaurant owned by a former waterman.. that is where I first saw his work and go this phone number. He manages a farm for the Duponts in Bozman, and his father was/is a boat builder.

### BEGIN SIDE A

[speed problems right at beginning]

dad a boat builder, story of that; ronnie helped his dad build wooden boats, also custom builds; does wood and fiberglass combos and all fiberglass.

Change to new materials with same lines

Molds built off old wooden boats; have original wooden builders build a plug as fiberglass mold

Dad was a waterman; ronnie worked with him at age 12; through college; got the bug to build

What the "bug" is; always a boat at the house, family always in boats, around boats, becomes a way of life; also the creativity in it; designing it etc.;

His first boat

8' to 16' then bigger and then a 30' open boat

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[note that ronnie relates the boats to his dad's boat shop. He could have maintained a connection with these objects-boats-while living in Chestertown but chose to return to the place where he associates boats and boat building.]

favorite part of working with his dad; learning; designing for the area; making it sit right in the water;

what worked the best; their own customizing

building for the jobs; for crabbing and oystering; making the sides the right height for each job;

the models he builds:

first one was 1987; replica of one his dad built; built while recovering from surgery; then didn't make any more until 1996;

living in Easton working for Kent Youth in Chestertown as social services; no time no place to make models

when he moved back here and started working on the farm he made models; more free time;

made 15 since then in last 2 years

dad made one model boat

size and convenience of display

gives dad credit for getting him to do it;

skills building a regular boat and model boat; all same done same process

Process: lists steps

He always amazed by the good eye that his dad had; and all boat builders have; no elaborate plans; go by experience

Ronnie goes by eye on his models; uses cabin styles and lines from the area but has no plans

Loves making drake tails;

Taking a few orders now out of curiosity; has models in Joe Spurry's restaurant with his card;

Not building to make money; done pretty well from this but makes him nervous; doesn't want "it to get to a point like it's a second job, a second job where I have to make so many a year. I like to make them when the mood strikes. And it keeps it fun that way."

[making something for fun and a learning experience rather than as something to support yourself-can you really translate that into a marketable object, should you?

Make some as wedding gifts, as graduation gifts, as presents when they open a restaurant

[sounds like quilts]

making a model for someone based on their boat and for them to put into their house is really difficult; have to take the lines off of it; then it has to be displayed perfectly with a good stand; and it has to look like the boat

learn about the particular builders when you do that; gives example

talks about the one he is working on now

what is left to do on it

hardest models to make; but he enjoys making those

have the patience and time to do this; setting time aside to work on the boats; helps him unwind;

tools he uses;

shows me some patterns he has made after he makes the boats

teaching his son to do this

shows me photos of models he has made; keeps a separate photo album of these

looking realistic; being small;

how the scale supports this need by the customer

[taking photos]

working in such a small size; accessories you have to order from catalogs.

The feeling you get when you see one of your boats on the water and working with his dad;

**END SIDE A**  
**BEGIN SIDE B**

Dirty work of building a boat; sanding all day in hot weather;

The ones that he built are a reflection of everything he learned;

How he started working on the farm, moved here

Other influence was just the "area" or landscape; fortunate to have grown up here; big influence on people; being around the water and outside; being around the older people in the area; close nit communities;

This compared to the work he did in Chestertown; opened his eyes to how lucky he was

What it feels like to create; different everytime; each has their own personality

Older workboats; why he prefers to model those; the double bow boat he wants to build next; keeping the lines alive by making models; also goes around to the older guys and looks at their photos; gathering info on this boat from the local old watermen; they wanted models of this boat and he didn't know it; some had sails

Mr. Tamerts father's boat [photo] tuckstern;

Called a "sharp ender"

Only works a couple of hours a few times a week on the boats so he doesn't get sick of them

**END TAPE**

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Ronald J. Haddaway  
Signature

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Date

Mailing Address: 03 2Cc) We, //s/4t L Q  
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Fieldworker/Photographer:

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# Interviewee Life History Form

Name

Last:

First:

Middle:

Corresponding Interview Log ii:  
Corresponding Film Log #:

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Address

Street: *32 (0 Ga&*

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0149-*

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Recommended by:

Date of Birth:

Birthplace:

Ethnic Background:

Male~Female ☐

How Long in United States: *bwrYy*

Circumstances of Immigration:

Education: *& , 5S.U.*

Occupational Experience:

Areas of Knowledge: *4e — I*

Fieldworker:

*Kelly Feltant*

