

ART BELL

The Man Who Started it All

18 January 2025

Most of us have been listening to radios for a long time. Not just shortwave, but AM and FM broadcast radio. Talk shows have been a staple since the 1960s. I would listen to Ira Blue on KGO from San Francisco, over 400 miles south of my home town. This was in the mid 60s. The overnight time window was always hard to fill, with politics and local news, personal interviews the main topics. The strange and unusual were forbidden subjects. Art Bell made this transition, and created a grand following, both in listeners and like minded shows. He was doing a late night, political call in program from Las Vegas on KDWN. After a number of years doing it he became bored (his words) with politics. One night he breached the topics of gun control and conspiracy theories. He was nearly fired, but the listener responses saved him. His ratings went through the roof. This show was called *West Coast AM*. I have spent many nights listening to Art driving cross country in the cab of my 18 wheeler. Truckers were a large part of his audience. Art was also a licensed amateur radio operator since he was 13. His last call was W6OBB, I worked him early one morning on 40 meters after he got off the air. Sadly, I didn't write the time down and never got a QSL card from him.

With his passing, we lost a National Treasure. Like Rush Limbaugh, who revived AM day time radio. Art changed the national radio landscape and cannot be replicated. There are many who emulate him, but none have his personality or knowledge base. His philosophy was to give everyone a platform and microphone to tell their story. He respected all his callers, regardless of the topic.

Links for all things Art Bell.

<http://www.artbellfiles.org/>

This is an extensive, free site. It includes many printed transcripts that can be read or down loaded. There are very long lists of his shows, guests and topics over his years on radio. This way you can find your favorite shows, or ones you missed.

<http://www.coasttocoastam.com/>

This is the shows web page. Basic information is available, but the good stuff is behind a pay wall.

<http://www.archive.org/>

This site is one of my go-to sights when I'm looking for anything. You set up a free account and can download, listen, or watch any of the hundreds of thousands of items listed there. They have 287 complete shows in audio files available.

<http://www.podbean.com/>

Here is 1,337 audio files/shows you can download, or listen to on their website.

<https://podcastaddict.com/>

Over 100 archived shows to listen to.

<https://artbelllegacy.com/>

Here you can find different facts on Art, including awards, family pictures, and YouTube links to some of his favorite bumper music.

YouTube resources

Art Bell Periscope. They have over 120 two hour audio clips and 12 shorter clips about Art. When you listen to his old shows with all the commercials removed, they average about 2.5 hours.

Cmdr Moosicvs. 28 complete shows.

Somres Indoors. This is a 10 hr 32 min marathon collection of shows and clips.

TiME WARP X. This poster has an Art Bell playlist with 55 videos/shows.

JSM This playlist has 64 shows, mostly his 'Ghost to Ghost' shows on Halloween.

Using 'artbellfiles.org' you can locate the guest, date and topic you want to listen to. Then just put that into the YouTube search bar and most likely find your favorite show. Art covered it ALL, and somewhere it's available to listen to on the internet.

Some of my favorites are;

17 May 1994, Preston Nichols – The Montauk Project

1 Dec 1995, Dr Nick Begich – HAARP He wrote a book *Angels Don't Play This HAARP.* This is the first show where Art covers the HAARP Project.

9 Sep 2001, Art talking about the attack on America.

12 May 2007, Richard Hoagland, Missing Bees.

1997, A man calls in claiming to be a pilot flying a home built airplane into Area 51 and seems to be shot down.