

Art Bell

19 April 2018



Arthur William Bell III (born 1945 in North Carolina USA - died in April of 2018 in Nevada, USA) was an American author and broadcaster, the founder & original host of the paranormal-themed radio program *Coast to Coast AM*. The show remains popular today with current host George Noory, still syndicated on hundreds of radio stations across North America. Bell was the founder and original owner of Pahrump, Nevada radio station KNYE 95.1 FM, its broadcast studio and transmitter located near his home, where he also hosted *Coast to Coast AM*.

Bell began his broadcast career in the late 1970s in California as a rock music disc jockey and began talk radio with his 1978 political call-in program *West Coast AM*. In 1988 the show was renamed *Coast to Coast AM* and moved from Las Vegas to Bell's home in Pahrump, Nevada.

Bell abandoned conventional political talk for topics such as gun control and conspiracy theories, producing a significant increase in ratings. The show's focus changed again significantly after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 because many media figures did not want blame for inciting anti-government and rebellious activity, such as that terrorist massacre. Subsequently, Bell discussed off-beat topics including paranormal events, the occult, UFOs and proto- & pseudoscience.

By February 1997 *The Washington Post* said that Bell was the USA's highest rated late-night radio host on 328 stations. *The Oregonian* said in June 1997 that he was on 460 stations. At its peak, *Coast to Coast AM* was syndicated on more than 500 and claimed 15 million nightly listeners.

In 2003, Bell took a smaller role in *Coast to Coast AM* and for four years, hosted the show during many weekends, retiring from this weekend role in July of 2007, still occasionally guest hosting through 2010. Unlike previous "retirements", Bell assured listeners this time would be permanent, but left open a return to broadcasting.

Classic episodes of Art Bell *Coast to Coast AM* are still broadcast in some radio markets on Saturday nights, named *Somewhere in Time*. Bell started a new nightly show in September 2013, *Art Bell's Dark Matter* on Sirius XM Radio but ended it six weeks later because of technology problems and disagreements about distribution.

On July 2015 Bell returned to radio with *Midnight in the Desert*, available online and through some traditional land radio stations. His final retirement in December 2015 was because of safety and security, after repeated intrusions and gunshots on his property in Nevada. Bell believed somebody wanted him off the air.

Bell died at his Pahrump home on April 13, 2018.

Sorry for the long introduction, folks but I didn't know who Art Bell was, so I needed that detail to help me ask him good questions. As you will see, Mr. Bell does not disappoint.

I will assume many of you heard him on the air and have questions, so please fire away in the comments.

Q: Mr. Bell, thank you for coming forward to speak to our questions.

AB: I was a broadcaster and show host, how in the heck could or would I not grant an interview? That would be like water refusing to puddle.

Q: Was your death your time?

AB: Yes, most certainly.

Q: Now you have confirmation, that somebody and maybe a few of them, wanted you off the air?

AB: Yes, but I knew that almost immediately when things started happening. The confirmation was no surprise, just the exact names I won't reveal.

Q: I wouldn't ask anyway, BUT what I will ask is, why did that happen after so much time with your talk show topics and popularity?

AB: I was a popular kook when there were fifteen million listeners, at least that's how certain interests saw me. You know who those interests are, it's obvious. By the 2010s, I was not as popular but still what somebody might call an icon and I was cutting too close to someone. More than a few someones.

Q: Why doesn't that happen to Rush Limbaugh?

AB: How do you know it doesn't happen? Or he just doesn't talk about it?

[Sidebar for readers outside the USA and for some Canadians also? Limbaugh is the N^o 1 radio show in the USA, on the air during the day, and he has been for at least two decades.]

Q: He's too well known and controversial, if something happened to him, it would be far too obvious.

AB: The powers that wish him gone could get rid of him and make it look as reasonable as you can think. He serves a purpose, by creating a point-of-view. Injecting disinformation into the mix works best when it has a volatile, well known significant disagreement to which it can stick. A large surface area for attachment. I wasn't as large a target, and shutting me up was deemed more beneficial.

Q: It worked but you seem like the type to resist suppression of speech.

AB: I'd already made my point, no need to risk my family's safety to chase what we already had achieved.

Q: Which was?

AB: Provide a platform for people to discuss controversial, touchy subjects. By the time the internet shifted into high gear, the mid to late 2000s it took over the purpose I created with my shows.

Q: Why didn't others see what you did?

AB: They did, but I was willing to take the risk, and have callers say things on the air we knew some listeners would hate to hear, others might love. Radio's a business, needs to attract listeners to draw advertising money and those ad agencies are very reluctant, they still are, to

associate their clients' names with many things.

You know how it works in America today, if ten or even a hundred people like something but just one more manages to scream how he or she is offended by it, that screamer is given veto power over the whole process. Just scream "Niggers into the wood chipper" and find out.

Q: I don't have to, I get your point!

AB: Even if it's a stupid, idiotic statement that everyone can see proves the person saying it is a fool, it can still generate controversy advertisers cannot manage.

Q: Did the Oklahoma City bomber have a valid point, if completely wrong headed approach or reaction?

AB: Yes to both, and that's the problem the world, that world being the Earth, has to overcome. As despicable as the mass killing was, the killers had a valid point. It is socially impossible to separate the two, but should be. The reaction is, because the mass murderer was willing to prove it, any agreement with his point-of-view endorses mass murder. That's ridiculous. Because he chose to do B after thinking A, then agreeing with A means B was a good idea? That is a stupidity too many people believe.

Q: That gets into the area of the Thought Police.

AB: Bingo! They decided I was in violation, too.

Q: So what about your shows was so risky and threatening in the 2010s that was not so touchy say, twenty years earlier?

AB: Nothing, and I'd say my earlier stuff was more cutting edge. What changed is, too many things are cutting too close for the comfort of some interests, because of public awareness and reaction.

Q: There was plenty of civil disobedience, rebelliousness and dissent in the 1960s.

AB: There was no internet. Radio signals have a limited range, so even a syndicated show on typical stations reaches a defined audience. Now any video or audio can be heard around the world. People who can understand the spoken language can listen, transcribe and even translate radio programs, anywhere. The audio file can be saved as good evidence. I was having too much of that happen, so I had to have a cork shoved down my throat.

Q: Why doesn't this happen to your successor on Coast to Coast AM?

AB: Different style, topics somewhat and questions. He's less controversial to the powers that would cork his bottle, too. That doesn't mean the show still isn't interesting, but it isn't what was my approach or style.

Q: Given the chance, Mr. Bell, what would you do differently?

AB: Not one damned thing!

Q: Any advice for humanity?

AB: Also listen to people with whom you disagree. For many people, I'd say, just start listening. Too many of you do not and they're the problem everybody else will have to solve.

Q: Thank you Mr. Bell.

AB: You're really welcome and keep it up, my friend!