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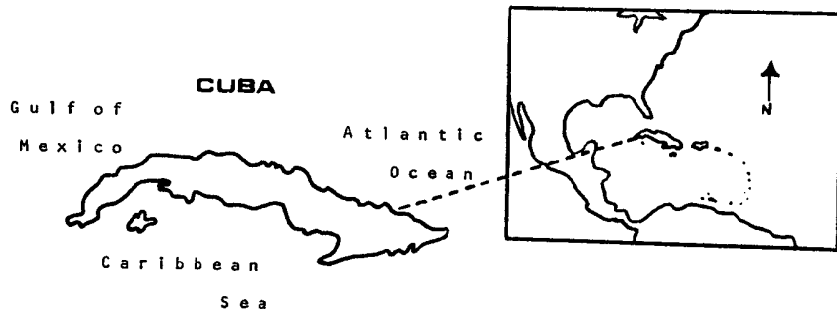
# RadioReloj

CUBAN BROADCASTING: A LOOK AT RADIO RELOJ

- OCTOBER 1987 -

The following article is composed from observations published in IRCA DX Monitor columns DX Worldwide-West / DX Worldwide-East, current WRTH information, and the FCC's Cuban Standard Broadcast List. In this article an analysis of the Cuban Radio Reloj outlets will be offered, including frequencies and information on QSLing the network.

Information herein is as accurate as possible compared with DXer observations, WRTH and FCC information, however, frequencies, powers, etc. are frequently/occasionally subject to change on Cuban MW outlets. Any developments will likely be reported in DXWW-W or DXWW-E. Readers should consult these columns from time to time to keep abreast of conditions. Any corrections/amplifications should be directed to the DXWW-E editor.



Radio Reloj (CHCD) is the official station of the Instituto Cubano de Radio y Television's (ICRT) "Noticiero Nacional de Cuba", and is the country's official time standard. The network is familiar to most of us with their 24-hour continuous news and commentary format in Spanish, with items alternated by male and female announcers. In the background are clock-like ticking pulse markers for the seconds (for which Radio Reloj has been affectionately nicknamed "the Cuban Minuteman" by some), and each minute a "Radio Reloj" ID (Spanish pronunciation "rah'-de-o ray-lo' ", given by man), TC, time pip, and a brisk morse code "RR" ID. Occasionally in the past descending chimes were substituted for the code "RR", but this is rare and hasn't been heard for some time. The time pip and morse RR ID's pierce through the jumble nicely, a characteristic advantageous to the alert DXer. The format is unique and is not difficult to ID on the crowded regional channels, where most of the Reloj transmitters are located, and basically cannot easily be confused with other stations. All frequencies run in parallel (//) making a positive identification generally easy for DXers. In the northeast, when conditions allow, it is not uncommon to find several of the "domestic service" outlets at very good levels, often dominating their frequencies. Tips on IDing Reloj parallels: For DXers with receivers incorporating keypad frequency entry (i.e. ICOM R71A) - Tune to one freq. where a Reloj outlet is being received, wait for the time pip on the minute, then immediately punch in another known Reloj frequency and listen for the shrill morse "RR" to slice through. For other receivers, I've had good results using a timer or stopwatch. Just find a freq. where a Reloj is audible and start timing a minute after the pip/RR on the minute, then switch to another known Reloj frequency - 60-seconds later listen for a pip and the familiar "RR" in code in the QRM. Most frequencies in the cadena seem to have good DX coverage -- 1270 has even been reported in the western US.

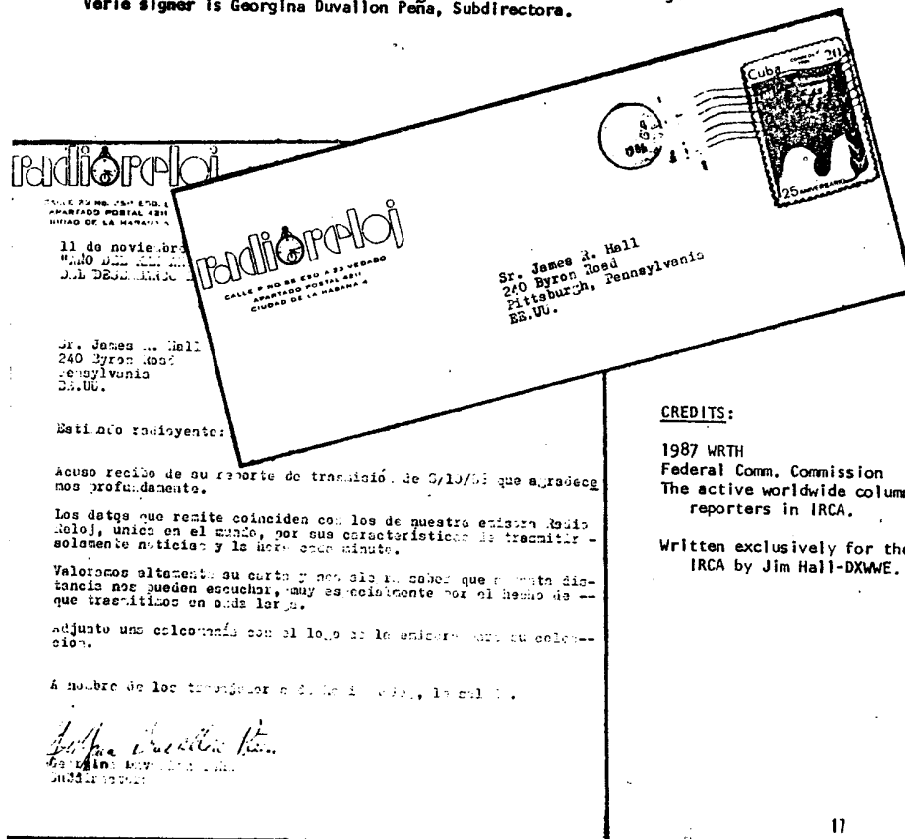
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CALLE P. NO. 85 ESO A 23 VEDADO  
APARTADO POSTAL 4211  
CIUDAD DE LA HABANA 4

In the past, for obvious reasons, some of these outlets have been noted drifting to split frequencies. Most notable is 1180 (to 1181a) which usually seems to be giving the US's Radio Marti-1180 problems. Others noted drifting were in the midband area (900's) in late 1986, notably 930 (to 931), possibly in response to the Costa Rican VOA operation on 930. These are all documented in past IRCA DX Monitor columns. The following is a frequency list where Radio Reloj transmitters have been observed and reported:

FREQUENCY:	COMMENTS:
590 kHz	-xmtr ex-570, or is this the old Rebelde-590 outlet?
700	-still on?
760	
790	
910	
920	-possible capacity for superpower on 790
940	
950	
960	
980	
1180/1	
1270	-primary source of QRM to Marti-1180
930	

Radio Reloj was verified easily - a report in Spanish to the address in WRTH (or on their stationery). A nice letter and bumpersticker-sized radio reloj decal were received within approximately 3 1/2 months. I always recommend return postage (according to common practice) when requesting varies from mediumwave stations, but since Radio Reloj falls under the Cuban Ministerio de Comunicaciones (MC) and is on a National Network (financed and run by the government) no rp was included in my report. The following is a sampling of a "QSL" received from Radio Reloj. Verie signer is Georgina Duvalon Peña, Subdirectora.



**CREDITS:**

1987 WRTH  
Federal Comm. Commission  
The active worldwide column  
reporters in IRCA.

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