

Society Jun 29, 2020

## Walter Röhrl

Niki Lauda once called him a “genius on wheels”. Walter Röhrl has been closely associated with his favourite brand Porsche for all of his life.



The official title of “best rally driver of all time” underlines Walter Röhrl’s successful motorsport career. He was one of the few drivers who won world championships in rallying as well as motor racing. He was also victorious in every class or series – whether TransAm, IMSA, hill climbs (Pikes Peak) or in the German Touring Car Championship. In the 80s, he began assisting with the development of Porsche sports cars, starting with the Porsche 964 Carrera 4 with all-wheel drive. Walter Röhrl has also been active around the world as a Porsche brand ambassador since 1993.

Walter Röhrl has been closely associated with his favourite brand Porsche for all of his life. The very first car he owned was a Porsche 356 B Coupé with 75 PS. He bought the car without an engine and scrimped and saved to come up with the money for the purchase price. Even when under contract as a works driver for Ford, Opel, Fiat, Lancia and Audi, Röhrl still cultivated his relationship with Porsche, racing in rallies in a private 911, for example. Porsche took on the two-time world champion as a works driver in 1981. Röhrl initially competed in the German Rally Championship in a Porsche 911 SC at the World Rally Championship race in San Remo.

Thanks to his driving talent and his ability to explain the handling of a car in a precise and simple way, Walter Röhrl has influenced the set-up and technology of Porsche road sports cars up to the current day. He embodies the Porsche philosophy of intelligent performance like no other person. The development of the super sports cars Porsche 959, Porsche Carrera GT and Porsche 918 Spyder also bears his signature.

### Personal details

Date of Birth: March 7th 1947

Place of Birth: Regensburg (Germany)

Nationality: German  
 Residence: St. Englmar (Germany)  
 Height: 196 cm  
 Weight: 77 kg  
 Hobbies: Cycling, skiing  
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## The career of Walter Röhrl

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>since 1993</b>  | <b>Porsche brand ambassador and development driver</b>  |
| <b>1984 - 1992</b> | Audi works driver<br>Winner of the Monte Carlo Rally<br>Winner of the Pikes Peak Hill Climb (1987)<br>Successful races in the TransAm and IMSA series (USA) and the DTM |
| <b>1983</b>        | Lancia works driver<br>Winner of the Monte Carlo Rally  |
| <b>1982</b>        | Opel works driver in the World Rally Championship<br>World Rally Champion   |
| <b>1981</b>        | German Rally Championship with Porsche 924 GTS and 911  |
| <b>1980</b>        | World Rally Champion in a Fiat 131<br>Overall winner of Monte Carlo Rally   |
| <b>1978 - 1980</b> | Fiat works driver in the World Rally Championship   |
| <b>1974 - 1977</b> | Opel works driver in the World Rally Championship   |
| <b>1974</b>        | European Rally Champion with a Opel Ascona  |
| <b>1973</b>        | Opel works driver   |
| <b>1972</b>        | Ford works driver   |
| <b>1968</b>        | First rally in a Fiat 850 (Rally Bavaria)   |



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