

Yvan Griboval

Circumnavigator - Explorer
Designer of OceanoScientific Programme
President of the OceanoScientific Association

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Yvan Griboval completed the first ever oceanographic data collection campaign by sail at the air-sea interface in the Antarctic Circumpolar Current rounding the three major capes: that of Good Hope (South Africa), Leeuwin (Australia) and the Cape Horn (Chile), leaving no CO2 or waste, during sixty days of single-handed sailing in the Roaring Forties and the Furious Fifties, as part of the [*OceanoScientific Expedition 2016 - 2017*](#): sailing single-handed around the World from Monaco to Monaco, flying the flag of the Yacht Club de Monaco.

Yvan Griboval - a 63-year old Norman - was born on 7 January 1957 in Mont Saint-Aignan (Rouen - France) to Cécile Griboval née Toutain (1924-2012) and Roger Griboval (1908-1997), Master impressionist painter of the Rouen School. An only son, Yvan Griboval was introduced to nature as a child while accompanying his father on the latter's sketching trips along the Normandy coast (from Dieppe to Deauville) and the banks of the River Seine near Rouen.

He spent his weekends and all his holidays in Saint-Valéry-en-Caux (Seine-Maritime), where at a very early age he was taught shore and sea fishing by "Bankers" - Newfoundland cod-fishermen - and started to learn about of the marine environment. He practiced competitive sailing also while very young. From age 11 to 24, Yvan Griboval sailed in French and English regattas (on the eastern end of the English Channel and in the Bay of the Seine), being based in Saint-Valéry-en-Caux, Fécamp then Le Havre. From 1975 onwards, he also created several sailing competitions of his own.

From Sailing to Media

A self-taught man, Yvan Griboval went to school in a religious institution (Join Lambert) in Rouen. He combined his passions for sailing and the media from the age of 18 onwards as a professional sportsman and journalist for print and TV: L'Équipe, Agence France Presse, Voiles & Voiliers, Yachting à Voile / Voile Magazine (the review of FFVoile, the French Sailing Federation), FR3 Normandie (a French Regional TV Channel).

He held the positions of reporter (text and photo), editor-in-chief, publication director, as well as TV presenter, director and producer. He was published in Belgium, Germany, Japan, Sweden and Switzerland.

Professional Yachtsman & Journalist

In the early 1980s, Yvan Griboval was "factory skipper" for Chantiers Bénéteau (world leader in the production of sailing yachts and motorboats) and occasionally for the Jeanneau and Kirié shipyards. He has won a good number of classic races and regattas, such as the *La Rochelle week*, *Marseille week*, *EDHEC Sailing Cup*, etc. Yvan Griboval has competed in several transatlantic races on Bénéteau sailboats: *Twostar* on *First*, *La Rochelle - New Orleans* on *Maison Phenix*, the *double-handed Transatlantic race* on *Maison Phenix III*, where he was placed second and third in his class. After entering the *Route du Rhum 82* on *Maison Phenix II*, he was forced to abandon after his autopilot failed.

Whitbread 1985-86: Victory around the world

Yvan Griboval was a team member alongside Lionel Péan (skipper) when *L'Esprit d'Equipe* won the *Whitbread 1985-86* (now the *Volvo Ocean Race* and *The Ocean Race*): the round-the-world crewed race which Eric Tabarly lost three times. The victory by a French team in 1986 was repeated only 29 years later by another French crew in 2012, when Franck Cammas and his crew won the race on board *Groupama 4*.

The turning point of communication

Yvan Griboval provided his experience and skills as a navigator-journalist for French and foreign local authorities and companies from 1987-88 onwards, guiding them in their event communication procedures based on the use of sailing competitions and champions.

Innovative concepts

Against this background, Yvan Griboval developed innovative methods of event promotion, providing his partners with optimized media exposure. He accompanied his clients and partners on some of the best-known sailing events in the sport: *the America's Cup*, the *Volvo Ocean Race* (ex-*Whitbread*), transatlantic races, World Championships, *Sailing Tour de France*, *Solitaire du Figaro*, *Vendée Globe*, *Nioulargue - Voiles de Saint-Tropez*, etc.

SAS SailingOne

Yvan Griboval was the founder and has been the CEO of SailingOne, a simplified joint stock company (SAS) since its creation (December 1994) following the takeover of the KL Organization, after being associated with its creation in 1990, before acquiring the company in full in December 1992, and then transforming it. To date, SailingOne is a family business wholly owned with his wife, Cécile d'Estais - Griboval.

Champions Trophy

In 1990, Yvan Griboval created the *Trophée des Champions de Voile* in response to a commercial and communication problem of the KL Nautique shipyard (Morbihan). As of its first edition, the French version of the event took the name of *Trophée Clairefontaine des Champions Trophy* following the partnership established in spring 1990 with the same-name paper group (Exacompta-Clairefontaine Group). The event was held at the start of every school year from 1990 to 2013 inclusive. Created in La Trinité-sur-Mer, the *Trophée Clairefontaine* was also organized in Cap d'Agde, Valencia (Spain) and La Grande Motte. Other *Trophée des Champions* events were organized in Marseille, Cadiz (Spain), Beirut (Lebanon) and Lyon. Thirty events in all over 24 years. They played host to a hundred of the most famous international sailing champions on the planet.

A unique formula

The four fundamental features of the *Trophée des Champions* were: 1- Having well-known champions from different disciplines of international sailing compete; 2- Giving them each the same equipment specially designed and exclusively used to do so: the *SailingOne 25* catamaran conceived by Yvan Griboval, designed by the firm of Van Peteghem - Lauriot-Prévost and developed by Patrick Tabarly and Serge Madec on the advice of Loïck Peyron; 3- Holding very short regattas (8 to 10 minutes long) with specific, unique rules, near natural headlands in contact with the public, to create a free show that is understandable by all; 4- Staging these competitions in order to create a sailing show easy to use by the media and, above all, TV.

Yvan Griboval is thus known as one of the first designers and producers of sailing-show events, from 1990 onwards transforming this sport with sometimes abstruse rules into genuine sailing shows with greater sporting values.

His innovations have been successfully taken up to give birth to various other racing circuits: *The D35 Championship* on Lake Geneva, the *Extreme Series* and *AC45 World Series* (the preparatory circuit for *America's Cup*) *GC32 Racing*, *Tour de France à la Voile*, *SailGP*, the new professional world circuit for sailing champions, etc.

Yvan Griboval's innovations have also inspired the organizers of the Olympic Games (Sailing) and, above all, the *America's Cup* during its 34th edition, in 2013 in San Francisco.

Albert I, Inspiring Prince and True Guide

An awareness and radical turn in the life of Yvan Griboval occurred in the early 2000s after reading the *"La carrière d'un navigateur"* written by Prince Albert I of Monaco (1848-1922). It marked the start of Yvan Griboval's total commitment to the study and preservation of the Ocean, which was to be reflected on 2 June 2017 - on his return from his single-handed scientific round-the-world voyage (read below) - when he offered Prince Albert II of Monaco *"To serve You until my dying day in Your fight to preserve the Ocean for the benefit of future generations by raising an army in Your wake"*.

With modesty, humility and immense respect, Yvan Griboval was perfectly in line with the innovative approach of Prince Albert I, who was not a scientist, but a passionate sailor, lover of the Ocean and Liberty, and who put his skills as a navigator and explorer, his enthusiasm and, above all, an unshakeable determination to learn more about the Ocean by helping scientists to know it better and thus better preserve it.

Although approximately 150 years apart, seven major features in common unite the Great Man and World peacemaker, and the modest sailor from the Yacht Club de Monaco: (1) A passion for the Ocean when very young, forever for Yvan Griboval; (2) Being self-taught without any university training; (3) Not being a scientist but a sailor; (4) Tireless curiosity about scientific facts: Origin of life in the Ocean for one / Causes and consequences of climate change and plastic pollution for the other; (5) Innovative: Creators of processes, materials, equipment, methods with an acute focus on perfection in the smallest details; (6) Accustomed to bringing together the most eclectic skills and effectively coordinating them to obtain the best in the general interest; (7) A gift for writing to testify, share and transmit emotion, to respect and love the Ocean, the first step towards its preservation.

OceanoScientific Programme

In November 2006, Yvan Griboval designed the *OceanoScientific Programme*. It is a series of activities designed to allow the international scientific community to enrich its knowledge about the causes and consequences of climate change, thanks to the repeated collection by sailboats (therefore zero-CO₂) of quality data at the air-sea interface on sea routes little explored if at all by scientific means.

These expeditions are placed under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and the Joint Technical Commission IOC-UNESCO - World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) of the United Nations.

A simple idea of general interest

Initially, in 2005-2006, without any scientific knowledge, Yvan Griboval was the first to perceive that ocean racing sailing yachts that regularly sail around the world via the three capes (Good Hope, Leeuwin and Cape Horn) probably pass through regions of the seas seldom explored if at all by the international scientific community in charge of the study of the Ocean in general and the climate in particular.

Yvan Griboval therefore conceived that these ocean-going sailing yachts could collect scientific quality information to enrich the knowledge of climatologists, oceanographers and meteorologists. It was just an idea until...

Yvan Griboval submitted the idea to scientists on 14 November 2006. First to the emeritus glaciologist Jean-Claude Gascard (CNRS Research Director), then to Nicolas Metzl and Gilles Reverdin (INSU-CNRS / LOCEAN / IPSL), as well as to an assembly of learned scientists, gathered in the premises of LOCEAN (Paris), including its enthusiastic director, Laurence Eymard, as well as Fabienne Gaillard (Ifremer).

Pierre Blouch (Météo-France) was also a fervent adviser from the start. Since 2006, a large number of well-known scientists have joined the team of researchers who guide the development of the *OceanoScientific Programme*, which was sponsored as of 2010 by the French Ministry of Research, then by that of the Ministry for the Ecology.

However, in 2006, the enthusiastic reaction of the scientists was moderated by the fact that no material existed to equip such small vessels: subjected to permanent shocks, to brutal vibrations, to a particularly hostile saline environment, with little power, and power of random supply to boot.

Motivated by the enthusiasm of scientists who repeated how important it would be to have quality scientific data at the air-sea interface on sea routes seldom explored if at all, as of the winter of 2006-07, Yvan Griboval undertook the design, development and implementation of this noteworthy but non-existent equipment: the *OSC System (OceanoScientific System)*. The development of this unique instrument has never stopped since.

The *OSC System* was originally developed with European finance, from the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER Basse-Normandie) and the European Maritime Technologies Network (MARTEC). It was declared operational by the researchers on 14 October 2009.

Approved by the Pôle Mer Bretagne cluster in 2012, it received the *Franco-German Economy Prize in 2013*. Situational tests were carried out for eight years by SailingOne on different sailboats in the Atlantic and the Arctic, then on board the three-masted *Bark Europa* (Netherlands), in the Indian and Pacific oceans, from Australia to South Africa via Cape Horn, Ushuaia and the Antarctic Peninsula. Its main R&D phase successfully ended on 31 October 2015.

In November 2013, Yvan Griboval put back on his oilskins more than 25 years after having "definitively" taken them off to test the *OSC System* Version 3.0. The system was loaded on-board the first *OceanoScientific Explorer*, a 16-meter high-performance racing sailboat *Made In Normandy* built in Cherbourg, equipped and prepared in Caen, of which he was the skipper (two-handed sailing) on a route covering 10,000 nautical miles (18,520 km) in the North Atlantic, the Doldrums and the Mediterranean.

By 23 June 2015, after new sea trials on the Caen - Monaco round trip, in particular to carry out the "*Tour de France des Solutions pour le Climat*" coordinated by Catherine Chabaud and to test an upgrade of the *OSC System*, Yvan Griboval had totalled 18,531 nautical miles (more than 34,000 km) of preparations for the first real *OceanoScientific* campaign.

The first *OceanoScientific* Expeditions

Fascinated by the Southern Ocean as of 1972 after reading (repeatedly!) "*La longue route*" by Bernard Moitessier, who sailed one and a half times around the world single-handed non-stop in 1968-69, then confirmed his fascination during the winter of 1985-86 by reading it on-board *L'Esprit d'équipe* (*Whitbread*), Yvan Griboval firmly decided to sail in the wake of Albert I, Prince of Monaco, on ocean routes seldom explored scientifically if at all at the air-sea interface interface and thus place his proven skills as a circumnavigator in the service of the international oceanographic community.

His personal objective is to observe the seasonal variability of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current at the air-sea interface **under the three main continental capes of Good Hope, Leeuwin, and the Horn**. By sail, of course, without any CO2 emissions or waste.

On 71% of the planet, the climate is the result of the interaction between the Ocean and the Atmosphere. Between the 40th and the 60th Southern Parallels, the Antarctic Circumpolar Current is a major feature of the climate system, in particular as a means of transporting heat and as a CO2 sink, supplying more or less all the other marine currents of the World, which supply it in turn.

OceanoScientific on this occasion has agreements with the Institut Français pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer); the French national meteorological service (Météo-France); Mercator Océan, in charge of the European Ocean Monitoring Service by Delegation of the European Commission (EEC); in close conjunction with the Laboratoire d'Océanographie et du Climat (LOCEAN) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), and the Observatoire Océanologique de Villefranche-sur-Mer.

The *OceanoScientific Programme* is recognized by POGO (Partnership for Observation of the GlobalOcean) which brings together 47 oceanographic institute members from 27 countries.

The *OceanoScientific Expedition* is supported by the Yacht Club de Monaco of which Yvan Griboval is a Society Member by decision of HSH the Sovereign Prince Albert II; by the Institut océanographique, Fondation Albert 1^{er}, Prince de Monaco; by the Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco and by the Centre Scientifique de Monaco (CSM).

Oceanoscientific Associations:

Complementing his scientific approach, Yvan Griboval was the founder of the non-profit general interest philanthropic association: MEROCEANS (**M**esure - **E**xpéditions - **R**echerche **O**CEan & **A**tmosphère en **N**avigations **S**cientifiques) created on 7 January 2011, at the time chaired by Jean-François Leprince-Ringuet, a descendant of the physicist Louis Leprince-Ringuet (1901-2000), who took part in 1974 in the creation of the "*Groupe Paul-Emile Victor pour la Défense de l'Homme et de son Environnement*" with Paul-Emile Victor, Alain Bombard, Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Haroun Tazieff.

On 30 January 2015, MEROCEANS became OceanoScientific. OceanoScientific has been a member of the French National Committee for Arctic and Antarctic Research since the summer of 2016, and of Météo et Climat, the French Meteorology and Climate Society, since 2017.

On 30 June 2016, Yvan Griboval was appointed Director of *OceanoScientific Expeditions* and appointed President of the OceanoScientific association on 18 October 2018.

In Monaco on 14 May 2019 a second OceanoScientific association was officially registered on June 21 in the Journal de Monaco. Its headquarters are based at the Yacht Club de Monaco.

In addition to its purpose, which is identical to that of OceanoScientific France - which is based at the Maison des Océans, or at the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco located in Paris - OceanoScientific also aims to contribute to the influence of the Principality of Monaco around the World.

The association is chaired by Yvan Griboval, who also assumes the role of Director of *OceanoScientific Expeditions*.

OceanoScientific mobilizes financial and technical resources to collect oceanographic data by sailing yacht at the air-sea interface in regions of the seas seldom explored if at all, including the Antarctic Circumpolar Current .

The data are provided free of charge to the international scientific community to illustrate the causes and consequences of climate change and plastic pollution, and help better know the Ocean in order to better preserve it in the interest of humankind.

OceanoScientific works to raise awareness among the general public of the pressing need to Love, Respect and Preserve the Ocean. OceanoScientific targets as a priority youngsters from 8 to 13 years old and decision-makers mostly met in the best-known yacht clubs of the Yachting world.

Triplet Effect

Yvan Griboval with his wife and partner in his commitment to the explore and preserve the Ocean, Cécile (born Tenaille d'Estais), are the happy parents of triplets born on 7 June 2007 (today they are 12 years old). Two boys, real twins, Quentin and Malo, and a daughter, Léa.

The arrival of the triplets in the year of his fiftieth birthday (2007) played an important role in Yvan Griboval's commitment to develop the *OceanoScientific Programme*.

It also increased tenfold his wish to mobilize as many people as possible, particularly children, to preserve the Environment in general and the Ocean in particular, in a philanthropic approach.

Since 2006 Yvan and Cécile Griboval have tirelessly committed all their energy and their own resources, without restraint, to that purpose...

***"Exploring, understanding and reporting on the Ocean
help us foresee and preserve it."***

Yvan Griboval - *President of OceanoScientific*
