

Yvan Griboval

Circumnavigator - Explorer
Designer of *OceanoScientific Program*

President of the OceanoScientific Association

President of the family-owned company LOVE THE OCEAN

Society Member of the Yacht Club de Monaco

Member of the Société des Explorateurs Français

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Now engaged in the cycle of *OceanoScientific Expeditions 2022-2027 cycle*, Yvan Griboval has successfully completed the first ever campaign to collect oceanographic data at the Air-Sea interface under sail in the Antarctic Circumpolar Current under the three great capes: Good Hope (South Africa), Leeuwin (Australia) and Cape Horn (Chile), without releasing any CO2 emissions or waste; during sixty days of solo sailing in the Roaring Forties and the Furious Fifties as part of the [*OceanoScientific Expedition 2016 - 2017*](#) : 152 days solo circumnavigation of the globe, from Monaco to Monaco under the colours of the Yacht Club de Monaco and the Société des Explorateurs Français.

Yvan Griboval, a 65-year-old from Normandy, was born on January 7, 1957, in Mont Saint-Aignan (Rouen - France) of Cécile (1924-2012) and Roger Griboval (1908-1997), Master Impressionist of the Rouen School. As an only son, Yvan discovers Nature by accompanying his father on the ground of his works: the Normandy coast (Dieppe to Deauville) and the banks of the Seine near Rouen. He spends his leisure time in Saint-Valéry-en-Caux (Seine-Maritime - France), where he is introduced to fishing and marine ecosystem by Newfoundlanders. Roger Griboval being a fine fisherman, Yvan won many sea fishing competitions and set records in the "Junior" category.

High school student in a religious institution (Join Lambert - Rouen - France) with his head in the clouds and his mind turned to the open sea, Yvan Griboval started competitive sailing at an early age. At the age of 13, he was already sailing the French and English regattas of the Eastern Channel and Bay of Seine, starting from Saint-Valéry-en-Caux, Fécamp and then Le Havre. He created several competitions from 1975. His path led him inexorably to the sea...

From sailing to the media

Resolutely self-taught, at the age of 18, Yvan Griboval combines his passions for sailing and the media by working as a professional sportsman and journalist for the written press, then TV: L'Équipe, Agence France Presse, Voiles & Voiliers, Yachting à Voile / Voile Magazine FFVoile, FR3 Normandie (France Television) and regular collaborations with the five national TV channels. He has held the positions of reporter (text and photo), editor-in-chief, publication director, presenter, director and TV producer. He writes in Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Japan.

Navigator & Professional Journalist

Since 1979, Yvan Griboval has been "factory skipper" for Chantiers Bénéteau (world leader in the production of pleasure boats) and occasionally for Jeanneau and Kirié. He has won many French classics: *Semaine de La Rochelle*, *Semaine de Marseille*, *Course Croisière Edhec*, etc. Yvan raced several transatlantic races on Bénéteau sailboats: *Twostar 81* on *First*; *La Rochelle - La Nouvelle Orléans 82* on *Maison Phénix*; *Transat en Double 83* on *Maison Phénix III*. He placed second and third in his class there. In the *Route du Rhum 82* on *Maison Phénix II*, he retired due to autopilot failure. His only abandonment in fifteen years.

Whitbread 1985-86: Victory around the world

Yvan Griboval took part in the victory of *L'Esprit d'Équipe* of Lionel Péan (Skipper) in the 1985-86 *Whitbread*, which became *Volvo Ocean Race* and *The Ocean Race*: the round-the-world crewed race which Eric Tabarly was denied three times. This victory which France won for the first time in 1986, was won again by another French crew 29 years later, thanks to Franck Cammas and his crew aboard *Groupama 4* in 2012.

The turning point of communication

From 1987-88, Yvan Griboval put his experience and his skills as a navigator-journalist at the service of French and foreign companies and local authorities, to support their Communication & Marketing actions by effectively exploiting the values of "people of the sea", the emotion of ocean competitions and its champions and the wonders of the marine environment.

Innovative concepts

In this context, Yvan Griboval develops original methods of event promotion, offering his partners optimized media exposure. He accompanies its clients and partners on some of the most famous sport sailing events: *America's Cup*, *Volvo Ocean Race* (ex-*Whitbread*), transatlantic races, World Championships, *Tour de France à la Voile*, *Solitaire du Figaro*, *Vendée Globe*, *Nioulargue - Voiles de Saint-Tropez*, etc.

SAS SailingOne which has become SAS LOVE THE OCEAN

Yvan Griboval founded and presides over SAS SailingOne since its creation (27 December 1994) following the takeover of the company KL Organization in the creation of which he was a partner in 1990, before acquiring it in its entirety in December 1992, then transforming it. To date, SailingOne is a family business owned 100% with his wife: Cécile d'Estais-Griboval. SAS SailingOne was renamed SAS LOVE THE OCEAN in March 2021 in view of its new activities and missions.

Trophée des Champions de Voile - Sailing Champions Trophy

In 1990, Yvan Griboval initiated the concept of Sailing-Show by creating the *Trophée des Champions de Voile* in response to a commercial and communication problem at the KL Nautique Shipyard (Morbihan - France). From the very first edition, this highly innovative event took the name of *Trophée Clairefontaine des Champions de Voile* thanks to the partnership with the Exacompta-Clairefontaine Group. This event took place every year at the start of the 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: Marseille, Cadiz (Spain), Beirut (Lebanon) and Lyon (France). A total of thirty events in total in 24 years, which have welcomed a hundred of the most famous champions of the international sailing planet.

A unique formula

The four fundamental elements of the *Trophée des Champions* are: **1-** Bringing together famous champions from different international sailing disciplines; **2-** Entrusting each of them with the same equipment specially designed and exclusively used for this purpose: the *SailingOne 25* catamaran imagined by Yvan Griboval, designed by Cabinet Van Peteghem - Lauriot-Prévost and developed by Patrick Tabarly and Serge Madec on the advice of Loick Peyron; **3-** Carry out very short competitions (8 to 10 minutes) with specific and unique rules, near natural promontories in contact with the public, to create a free show that can be understood by all; **4-** Staging these competitions with the aim of making them a show easy to exploit by the media and, above all, by TV. The concept of Sailing-Show was born.

Yvan Griboval is thus recognized as an initiator, designer and director of Sailing-Show events, transforming since 1990 this sport with its sometimes abstruse competitions into real nautical shows with magnified sporting values. His innovations have been successfully taken over to give birth to various circuits: *Championnat D35* on Lake Geneva, *Extreme Series* and *AC45 World Series* (preparatory circuit for the *America's Cup*), *GC32 Racing*, *Tour de France à la Voile*, or *SailGP*, the world professional circuit of sailing champions, etc.

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

Albert I, Inspiring Prince and True Guide

In the early 2000s, reading "*Carrière d'un navigateur*" by Prince Albert I of Monaco (1848-1922) led to an awareness and a radical shift in Yvan Griboval's life. This is the starting point of its unlimited commitment to promote the study of the Ocean in order to preserve it for the benefit of future generations. The birth of triplets (two twins and their sister) in June 2007 increased this commitment.

Yvan Griboval realizes that his children will never know the abundant richness of Nature from his youth in Saint-Valéry-en-Caux. The *Sixth Extinction* is truly inevitable due to human activities. We must fight to reduce this decline!

With modesty, humility and immense respect, Yvan Griboval follows in the wake of Prince Albert I, who was not a scientist, but a passionate sailor, in love with the Ocean and Freedom. He combined His skills as a navigator and explorer, His enthusiasm and, above all, His fierce will as a sailor, to help discover the Ocean by enabling scientists to discover and study little-known organisms during 28 campaigns (1885 - 1915). No less than 110 reference works are still used today by scientists.

About 150 years apart, seven major points in common unit together the Great Man, who is also an Artisan of World, and the modest sailor of the Yacht Club de Monaco: **1-** Passion for the Ocean from a very young age, or even from the beginning as far as Yvan Griboval is concerned; **2-** Self-taught without any university training; **3-** Consequently: not Scientist but Sailor; **4-** Tirelessly curious about scientific truth: Origin of life in the Ocean for one / Future of Humanity for the other; **5-** Innovator: Creator of processes, materials, equipment, methods with an acute search for perfection in the smallest details; **6-** Accustomed to bringing together the most eclectic skills and effectively coordinating their actions to obtain the best in the general interest; **7-** Gift of writing, storytelling and image to bear witness, share and transmit Emotion; to RESPECT and LOVE the Ocean - LOVE THE OCEAN.

OceanoScientific Program

In November 2006, Yvan Griboval designed the *OceanoScientific Program*. 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 OceanOPS, 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

Originally, in 2005-2006, without any scientific knowledge, Yvan Griboval was the first to imagine that the ocean racing yachts that regularly sail around the world passing under the three capes (Good Hope, Leeuwin and Cape Horn) probably frequent areas that are little or not explored by the international scientific community in charge of studying the Ocean in general and the Climate in particular. Yvan Griboval therefore imagines that these ocean-going sailing ships could collect scientific quality information to enrich the knowledge of climatologists, oceanographers and meteorologists. It was just an idea then...

Yvan Griboval submitted this idea to scientists on November 14, 2006. First to the oceanographer Jean-Claude Gascard (Director of Emeritus Research at the CNRS), then to Nicolas Metzl and Gilles Reverdin (INSU-CNRS / LOCEAN / IPSL), as well as to a group of scientists gathered in Paris at the Laboratoire d'Océanographie et du Climat: Expérimentations et Approches Numériques (LOCEAN), including Laurence Eymard, its enthusiastic director, and Fabienne Gaillard (Ifremer). Pierre Blouch (Météo-France) is also a fervent adviser from the beginning.

Since 2006, many renowned scientists have joined the team of researchers guiding the development of the *OceanoScientific Program*, which has been sponsored since 2010 by the French Ministry of Research, and then by the Ministry of Ecology, to name but the first two sponsoring ministries.

However, in 2006, the enthusiastic reaction of scientists was tempered by the fact that no equipment existed to equip such small ships: subject to permanent shocks, brutal vibrations, a particularly hostile saline environment, poor energy supply and, moreover, randomness. Motivated by the enthusiasm of scientists who keep saying how important it would be to have quality scientific data at the ocean-atmosphere interface on these little or unexplored maritime routes, Yvan Griboval undertakes, from the winter of 2006-07, the design, creation and development of this famous non-existent equipment: the *OceanoScientific System (OSC System)*. The development of this unique tool has never stopped since. The *OSC System - Version 4.0* will be on board in November 2022.

The *OSC System* is being developed thanks to European funds (FEDER Basse-Normandie & MARTEC). It was declared operational by the scientists on 14 October 2009. Labelled by the Pôle Mer Bretagne in 2012, it was awarded the *Franco-German Economy Prize* in 2013. For eight years, SailingOne carried out tests on sailing boats in the Atlantic and Arctic, then on board the three-masted ship *Bark Europa* (Netherlands) from Europe to Australia and South Africa via Cape Horn, Ushuaia and the Antarctic Peninsula. Its main R&D phase was successfully completed on 31 October 2015.

In November 2013, Yvan Griboval put the foules back on again, more than 25 years after he had "put them away for good", to test the *OSC System Version 3.0* himself. He is carrying out this experiment on board the first *OceanoScientific Explorer*, a 16-metre *Made In Normandy* performance sailboat (like an IMOCA *Vendée Globe* prototype but two metres smaller) built in Cherbourg, equipped and prepared in Caen, for which he is the skipper (double-handed sailing) for a 10,000 nautical mile (18,520 km) race in the North Atlantic, Doldrums and Mediterranean.

On 23 June 2015, after a new test sail 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 evolution of the *OSC System*, Yvan Griboval totals 18,531 nautical miles (more than 34,000 km) in preparation for the first great *OceanoScientific Expedition*.

First *OceanoScientific Expeditions*

Yvan Griboval was attracted to the Southern Ocean as early as 1972 after reading (repeatedly!) "*La longue route*" by Bernard Moitessier, who completed a solo non-stop circumnavigation in 1968-69. This fascination was confirmed during the winter of 1985-86 when he discovered him "in real life" on board *L'Esprit d'Équipe (Whitbread)*.

Yvan Griboval resolutely decided to follow in the footsteps of Albert I, Prince of Monaco, on oceanic routes that had been little or not explored scientifically at the Air-Sea interface, in order to contribute his proven skills as a circumnavigator to the international oceanographic community.

Yvan Griboval's personal objective, based on the recommendations of the scientists who surround, advise and guide him, is to observe the seasonal variability of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current at the air-sea interface under the three major continental capes: Good Hope - Leeuwin - Cape Horn. Under sail, of course, and without any CO2 emissions or waste.

Indeed, over 71% of the planet, the climate is the result of the Air-Sea interaction. Between the 40th and the 60th parallel South, the Antarctic Circumpolar Current is a major element of the Climate Machine, in particular of heat transport and CO2 sink, because it feeds more or less all the other marine currents of the World, from which it feeds itself.

OceanoScientific is on this occasion in agreement with: Ifremer (the Institut Français pour l'Exploitation de la Mer); Météo-France; Mercator Océan, in charge of the European Ocean Monitoring Service by delegation of the European Commission (EEC); in close collaboration with the Laboratoire d'Océanographie et du Climat (LOCEAN) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

This *OceanoScientific Expedition* is supported by the Yacht Club de Monaco, of which Yvan Griboval is a Society Member by decision of H.S.H. 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 Association

Complementing his scientific approach, Yvan Griboval is the initiator of the non-profit general interest philanthropic association: MEROCEANS (**M**esure - **E**xpéditions - **R**echerche **O**céan & **A**tmosphère en **N**avigations **S**cientifiques) created on 7 January 2011, at that 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. Then on 30 June 2016, Yvan Griboval was appointed Director of *OceanoScientific Expeditions*. The association is domiciled at the Maison de l'Océan, the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco in Paris, 195 rue Saint-Jacques (75005). Yvan Griboval became President on 18 October 2018. In July 2022, OceanoScientific left Paris to settle in the South of France, at the Club Nautique de la Marine à Toulon (CNMT) on the Naval Base, Quai de Norfolk, Toulon (83000).

The social purpose of the philanthropic association of general interest OceanoScientific is:

OceanoScientific bears witness, raises awareness and educates the widest possible audience so that one and all RESPECT and LOVE THE OCEAN and its biodiversity for the benefit of future generations.

OceanoScientific contributes to the implementation of oceanographic sailing expeditions without CO2 emissions in regions of the seas that have seldom been explored if at all, to increase knowledge of the Ocean, of the causes and consequences of climate change and pollution.

OceanoScientific concentrates its efforts to participate in the safeguarding of the genetic heritage of marine organisms threatened with extinction, in particular those of coral reefs, by promoting their virtuous valuation for the benefit of Health and Well-being in compliance with the Protocol of Nagoya.

OceanoScientific implements all actions intended to mobilize young people in their school cycle and higher education to encourage them to develop careers related to the Ocean, while respecting the Nature.

OceanoScientific acts in accordance with the standards and recommendations of United Nations (UN) agencies and the international scientific community, in conjunction with non-governmental organizations dedicated to the knowledge and preservation of the Ocean and its biodiversity.

***"Love, Respect and Explore the Ocean, then bear witness and share,
to promote its preservation to the benefit of future generations."***

Yvan Griboval