

Bio Sheldon Breiner

Sheldon Breiner is a Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur, inventor and a geophysicist specializing in the exploration and the scientific and cultural research on and in the earth.

Breiner was, previously: the [founder and CEO of Geometrics](#) (sold to EG&G, later OYO of Japan); co-founder and CEO of PML (sold to Baker Hughes); and founder and CEO of Syntelligence, Quorum Software and Solis Therapeutics. He was a Director of ESP, Inc., an environmental software company acquired by IHS, a public company for databases for the energy and environmental industries, and Director and interim CEO of 3DGeo, Inc. for seismic imaging for oil, merged in late 2008. He was a member of the Advisory Board of Silicom Ventures, and a member of the Band of Angels in Silicon.



As a typical Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur, Breiner uses New Ventures West, a sole proprietorship, as his personal business incubator to conceive and launch high-tech start-ups. He is currently Chairman and founder of a startup, [UBIQ Networks, Inc.](#), for large-scale GPS-based cell-phone-connected data-gathering million-person field-force to create an on-demand, information utility, world-wide and of [Fraqtal.com](#) which uses a game to be launched on Facebook to gather an infinitely deep and broad amount of personal descriptors that will be used for social interactions and, at user's option, for personalized search and online transactions. He is also the founder of a company that uses proprietary knowledge for *direct detection of hydrocarbons* to characterize oil field and shale gas prospects from aircraft using proprietary analysis and sensor array.

He received a [patent for a chip](#) that should mitigate the negative consequences of using a cell phone while driving and filed one based upon technology from the issued patent to halt texting while driving and using the chip as a means of anonymously collecting roadway, traffic and environmental conditions for state and federal agencies. Breiner has patents pending for an almost-free but *pay-per-pic* or *free-with-ads* camera, a navigation system app for smart phones that does not need wireless access to the service provider, a method for automatically charging the batteries in an electric car while driving, detector array/system for direct detection of hydrocarbons from an aircraft and a torque converter for a bike.

He is on the Board of Directors of SEAM, the leading-edge technical non-profit company owned by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), the principal organization in the world dedicated to technology for oil and mineral exploration. SEAM's mission is to conduct computer modeling of oil exploration data for the world-wide benefit of finding large deposits of hydrocarbons all financed and assisted by the world's leading oil and oil service companies. Breiner was recently the Moderator of the Executive Forum, the official kickoff session for the technical program of a recent Annual international Meeting of the SEG

Much of Breiner's career involves remote sensing for mineral and cultural resources through airborne, oceanographic and land based geophysical surveying. He has also been a pioneer in [unconventional applications](#) of magnetometers, for example, earthquake prediction, geophysical techniques for archaeological exploration, search for buried and sunken objects, and various marine and airborne magnetic methods for military or security purposes. As a former consultant to various branches of the US government, he has been involved with detection of submarines, mines, tunnels, weapons and other ordnance. For example, he was involved the search for two sunken U.S. submarines; with Howard Hughes' organization, a secret (then and somewhat now) search for a Soviet submarine in the Pacific (code-name [Project Azorian](#)); and he demonstrated,

in 1968, the [first gun detector](#) at the request of the White House, now the standard for security at airports and buildings around the world.

He has been involved with many archaeological projects including such published examples as the discovery in Italy of the ancient, buried Greek city of Sybaris ([Science](#), 150, 1965, [The Rubidium Magnetometer in Archaeological Exploration](#)), and over 100 colossal monuments buried for 3,000 years in the jungles of Mexico ([American Scientist](#), Vol. 60, 1972, [Magnetic Exploration of the Olmec Civilization](#) with Michael D. Coe, co-author), the latter earning him both the 'Best Presentation Award' at the International Meeting of Society of Exploration Geophysicists and the moniker, in his professional field, as the "[Indiana Jones of Geophysics](#)." A current project operating under a permit issued by the Mexican government, Breiner is the technical leader of a team that has used a cesium marine magnetometer to discover offshore Mexico a Manila galleon, the *San Felipe*, circa 1576, containing several tons of Ming porcelains, silk, beeswax--and other such cargo.

He is currently preparing several papers on widely varying topics: his role in using magnetometers to record the magnetic effects of the 'EMP' from a 1.4 million ton hydrogen bomb, detonated 4,000 miles away high over the Pacific in 1962, a military experiment which led to the [creation of the Internet](#) and possibly the Cuban missile crisis; the interesting circumstances that led to the invention of the [first gun detector](#) used at airports and elsewhere; a possible [cause of Alzheimer's](#); and a hypothesis for the sudden and mysterious demise ([mass extinctions](#)) of [most of the species on earth](#) at four occasions over the past half-billion years and the basis for ['direct' sensing of hydrocarbons](#) in the earth using magnetometers, the latter three topics all sharing a common nexus.

His Ph.D. dissertation was on the subject of earthquake prediction on the San Andreas fault in California and Japan. His M.S. research resulted in the first quantitative method (based on Euler's Theorem) and device for using a magnetometer for exploration and mapping of oil and gas deposits from aircraft and ships, a concept which he then patented.

Breiner is a Fellow, by invitation, in the [Explorers Club](#) of New York, appears in [Portraits of Success: Impressions of Silicon Valley Pioneers](#). He is a co-founder and former trustee of the [Peninsula Open Space Trust](#), a conservation group which has acquired, for public enjoyment, more than 70,000 acres in the San Francisco Bay area; was on the advisory Board of the School of Earth Sciences of Stanford University, Chairman of the Geologic Safety Committee of the Town of Portola Valley, California. Breiner was a member of the Advisory Board of Benetech on a project to aid in finding and [removing landmines](#) around the world. He is an occasional lecturer in the Graduate School of Business and the Department of Geophysics at Stanford University, the [Heiland Lecturer](#) at Colorado School of Mines. He has designed an [online seismograph](#) for the new Town Center of Portola Valley and has arranged for a high sensitivity, [online cesium magnetometer](#) to be installed nearby at the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve of Stanford University for earthquake and other research purposes. He has written and/or presented several hundred technical papers and the industry-standard [reference](#) on the use of magnetometers for geophysics, military and archeological purposes with a million copies in print and, now online.

Breiner has a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D., all in Geophysics, from Stanford University. He has run ten marathons, enjoys skiing, hiking, [photography](#), and has traveled extensively to over one hundred countries. He is married with two grown children and resides near Palo Alto, California.

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