

# The Construction **REVIEW**



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## **Frontier Golf** **rocks Pebble Beach**

Page 12

**The Ertl Company:  
From basement business  
to die-cast dynamo**

Page 3

**So, how are those  
TK-Series Bucket  
Teeth working out?**

Page 7

**An indy rental  
business in D.C.**

Page 10



# PLAYING THROUGH

AT  
POPPY HILLS

## Frontier Golf uses Deere iron in their 18-hole renovation of Poppy Hills Golf Course

It only took a quarter of a mile for us to stop grumbling about the \$10 toll to gain entrance to the Monterey Peninsula's wonderfully twisty 17-Mile Drive. This road winds through the Del Monte Forest and past legendary California golfing landmarks — Cypress Point Lookout, Carmel Bay, The Links at Spanish Bay, Spyglass Hill, Pebble Beach Golf Links, and our destination, Poppy Hills Golf Course. This time we left our clubs at home because we're checking on the progress of a complete 18-hole renovation that started in March.

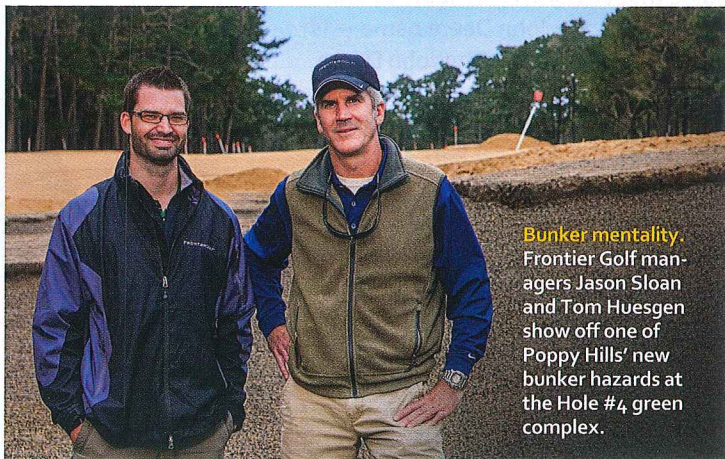


### 18 holes on the bucket list

Every golfer's list of must-play courses features the fairways of Pebble Beach, including one-time National Pro-Am course Poppy Hills. The course's links were designed by Robert Trent Jones II back in 1986, and it is the home course of the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA). According to the NCGA, the all-new Poppy Hills will feature:

- A new irrigation system to better manage water usage
- Reconstructed teeing areas
- Redesigned doglegs that will help the course unfold more naturally
- Renovated bunkers that employ state-of-the-art subgrade protection and more uniform sand playability
- Replaced and redesigned putting greens
- Sand-capped fairways to greatly improve drainage and make play firmer and faster
- A completely renovated clubhouse

Pulling off this massive redo requires contractor Frontier Golf of Jones Mills, Pennsylvania, and original course designer Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Architects (RTJII) to basically bring the entire course back down to natural grades and tie it into its surroundings, creating a unique golfing experience on the Monterey Peninsula. Fortunately, both Frontier and RTJII are playing at the very top of their games.



**Bunker mentality.** Frontier Golf managers Jason Sloan and Tom Huesgen show off one of Poppy Hills' new bunker hazards at the Hole #4 green complex.





Loading up on productivity. Out on Hole #7, a 624K and a 300D Series-II work together to move a whole lotta dirt.

### Play it as it lies

According to Frontier Golf Director/Project Manager Jason Sloan, "The Pebble Beach area is unique in the variety of golf-course types and styles it offers, and that's one of the reasons Poppy Hills is being renovated. There's been a trend in the golf industry to irrigate less turf by integrating more natural sandy and grassy areas into the course and using them as strategic elements and hazards. So the tees, fairways, roughs, bunkers, and greens at Poppy Hills are designed for more exciting play while blending with the natural surroundings — the Del Monte Forest." To accomplish this requires plenty of iron, including Deere excavators, crawlers, loaders, and articulated dump trucks.

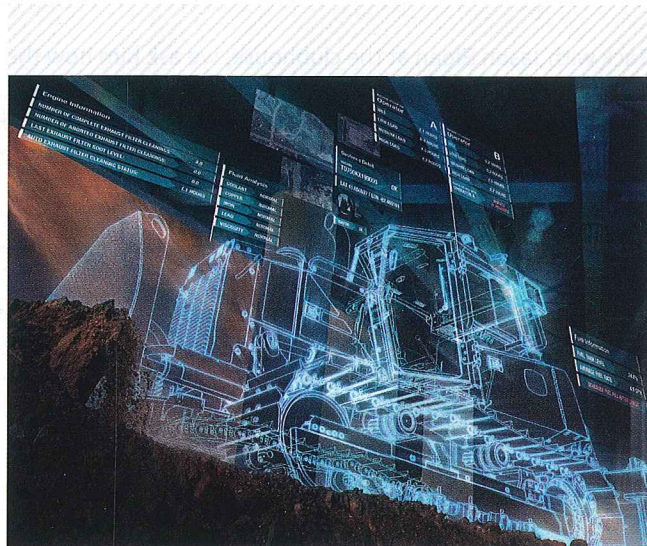
"For the new drainage network, we dig trenches with a Deere compact excavator and install perforated pipe along with larger-diameter solid pipe to carry the water to the outlet. We use 750K Crawlers with a Topcon 3D-MC2 system to give larger areas such as the fairways and roughs their initial shape. The bunkers are shaped using a 650K or 750K Dozer, depending on the size of the bunker. We core them out with a mini excavator, install drainage pipe, and cover it with pea gravel. Then, a special polymer is sprayed to make a solid surface that is porous and allows the bunker to drain."

### To a "T"

Meanwhile, on #15 green, Michael Dodson is putting a 750K Low Ground Pressure (LGP) Crawler through the paces. "We use this LGP dozer on slopes and wet areas because its wider 30-inch pads tread lighter on the ground. The hydraulic system on this machine is so smooth, and the response time of the controls is excellent. Combine that with its 13.5-foot blade, and you're really moving some dirt effectively and efficiently.

"The reversing fan is another feature I really like — handy when working in all this dirt. It blows out the coolers automatically so you don't have to shut down to clean out the radiator."

Seeing Dodson has matters well in hand, we point our Gator™ down the cart path to the former driving range where a 250G LC Excavator is serving up dirt to a 300D Series-II Articulated Dump Truck, with a 250D Series-II waiting on deck.



## INVISIBLE HERO: John Deere WorkSight™

*In the era of telematics data, one of the greatest features of current John Deere equipment isn't readily apparent. "We keep a close eye on Frontier Golf's equipment at Poppy Hills — from our shop 90 miles away in Newark, California," says Papé Machinery Rental Manager Dave Mustin.*

*"We monitor machine functions on their fleet via a remote connection through JDLINK™ Ultimate, which is standard equipment on most new Deere equipment. In fact, our techs have used John Deere Service ADVISOR™ Remote 208 times in the first four months of the Poppy Hills Golf Course project to remotely retrieve diagnostic trouble codes, monitor and record machine data, and update machine software."*



# PLAYING THROUGH POPPY AT HILLS

**Practicing his swing.** Operator Richard Soria gets a 250G LC bucketful for a 250D Series-II ADT.

Back with Jason Sloan at the clubhouse, we ask him how the equipment's been serving Frontier Golf to date. "With an 18-hole renovation, you need to move tons of dirt, gravel, and sand. And the Deere ADTs, loaders, dozers, and excavators have been valuable to us in getting the job done."

So, will Frontier Golf have Poppy Hills ready for its Spring 2014 reopening? "Yes, and it's going to be a truly unique golfing experience worthy of the Monterey Peninsula and future golf tournaments. We're getting great uptime from our John Deere equipment and excellent support from our dealer, and we've got the best people in golf-course construction working on this project. We'll be ready." >>

Frontier Golf is serviced by Papé Machinery, Newark, California.



**Doze prose.** 650K LGP operator Michael Dodson waxes poetic about the powerful and surefooted performance of John Deere K-Series Dozers.



**CHECK OUT THE VIDEO AT:**  
[JohnDeere.com/poppyhills](http://JohnDeere.com/poppyhills)

## Crawlers equipped to smoothly handle the rough

*To keep uptime and productivity high, and daily operating costs low, Frontier Golf counts on Deere dealer Papé Machinery to spec its equipment to deliver reliable performance. Here are just a few options Frontier chose to keep their dozers crawling strong:*

**Low Ground Pressure (LGP)** models' extra-wide tracks provide great flotation when working in environmentally sensitive areas.

**Extended Life Undercarriage with SC-2™-coated bushings** make working extensively in sand neither a trap nor a hazard. With these Deere-exclusive undercarriage parts, you can get twice the life out of a bushing before needing to turn it — in many cases, bushing turns can be eliminated completely.

*As anyone who ever scored a birdie will tell you, the green has to be a perfect grade — and with **Topcon 3D-MC² systems** in their 650K, 750K, and 850K Dozers, there'll be smooth putting at Poppy Hills.*

*As a side note, all K-Series Crawler Dozers are now available with the new factory-installed Topcon integrated grade-control option so it rolls off the dealership trailer with a 3D-MC² grade-control system ready to go.*

