

Power Curbers Inc., Volume 24, Issue 2



Recipient, E-Award for Excellence in Exports, US Department of Commerce

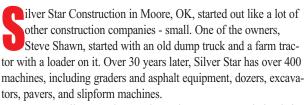


Our Commitment Shows

NO STRINGLINE BIG SAVINGS FOR CONTRACTORS



A member of Silver Star's crew uses the Topcon rover to check the accuracy of the curb.



However, Silver Star has set themselves apart not only by their growth but by adopting advances in construction technology earlier than many other companies, including 3D technology for site modeling and stringless machine controls.

Silver Star recently used one of their 5700-Cs to put down 18,000 feet (5,486 m) of curb and gutter in a residential housing

addition in southwest Oklahoma City using the Topcon Millimeter GPS system.

Once the dirt work and grading was completed, the concrete crew got right to work by mounting the Topcon receivers on their 5700-C to receive the signal from the laser transmitter and setting up the Topcon rover to check the vertical and horizontal position of the curb.

With a good concrete mix and steady delivery, the Silver Star crew was able to pour about 4,000 feet (1,219 m) of curb and gutter per day without having to set and remove stringline.

"It's very hard for a crew that has set stringline their whole life to watch the machine just take off and follow the 3D guidance,"



Using the Topcon Millimeter GPS system and a 3D model of the jobsite, Silver Star has eliminated the need to set and remove stringline.

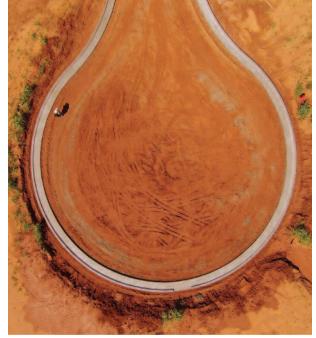
says Louis Cossey of Silver Star. "For a few times at first we set some stakes just to make ourselves feel better. It's always been on grade! The advantages (of stringless) are overwhelming – cutting labor costs in half," Louis says.

Silver Star manages the 3D modeling to ensure that the model is correct for both vertical and horizontal alignment for pouring curb.

"It's a very basic system once you understand it. Anyone can learn it; it just takes a little time," says Louis. "3D is the future – we have several systems. If you're going to compete in the construction world today, you need a control system. GPS is here to stay and it is constantly changing for the better."



Silver Star's crew uses their 5700-C to pour curb and gutter in a cul-de-sac for a housing addition in Oklahoma City.



The precision of the curb placement can easily be seen from above.

"The advantages (of stringless) are

overwhelming -

cutting labor costs in half."



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ou wouldn't think a commercial fisherman would know much about slipforming, unless you've met Greg Brock.

"I fished in the Bering Sea for seven seasons up in Alaska," Greg says. "In my seasons off, I would work for an old concrete contractor that taught me a lot. Becoming a concrete contractor was pretty easy for me. Coming from that background of fishing the Bering Sea, I was pretty driven to work."

Brock quickly discovered that the rewards of concrete work were, for lack of a better word, concrete.

"It's a little more rewarding than catching fish. You could actually see the things you built," he says.

Brock began attending the World of Concrete and became fascinated by curb machines. Seeing the value the equipment could add to his business, Greg knew someday he wanted to own his own machine.

"You don't just get there overnight; you have to work to get yourself into a position where you're successful. We had great clients and we did quality work, we just had to have a machine to remain competitive on the bigger jobs and get a bigger share of the market."

Greg recently bought a used 2006 5700-Super-B from a retiring contractor on the east coast. The machine arrived during a pre-construction meeting, where several large roadbuilding companies were in attendance. As proud of his new purchase as Greg was, there was only one problem.

"I didn't know how to fire this thing up to unload it. And now I've got everybody in town that I work for sitting there watching me," he recalls. "So I called Power Curbers. It was after hours but someone from Tech Support answered and he

walked me through the process and it started right up."

Once Greg had his machine unloaded, he realized he would need factory training to be able to make the most of the capabilities of the Super-B on the job.

"Before the training, I just honestly didn't know how I could learn and retain that amount of knowledge in just a week. It seemed like a lot, it just seemed overwhelming"

Power Curbers' Regional Service Manager Terry Duncan traveled to Oregon to train Greg and the Brock Construction crew.

"Terry worked with my crew to learn the big picture and the little nuances – stringline, the way the machine is set up, different ways you can put the sensors. And instantly, I was very confident. My worries were gone," says Greg.

"By the second day, we were pouring and it was a great looking product. And I had the DOT inspector smiling and taking pictures because he was happy."

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Even Greg's ready-mix provider was impressed.

"He hated slipform jobs. They were the most stressful days for him with screaming and yelling and problems with other machines," says Greg. "And then with our machine, he said 'It was the fastest process, the smoothest process, with everybody feeling good about the operation and the product.' And he lowered our price because of that."

"My supplier listened to Terry and they worked on the mix design for about 30 minutes on the tailgate of a pickup. And when we got the product, it was a good mix, just the way we wanted it."

After a week of training, Greg couldn't believe how much they had learned from Terry's instruction. "I am truly humbled by it. I am just amazed at the capability of the machine, and there is definitely an art to it. I'm so appreciative of what Terry educated me on. And it wasn't just me – it was my ready-mix provider, it was key people on my crew, my DOD inspector that was on the job, the general contractor – I mean, it was impressive to see. And now everybody in my region is excited about this Power Curber and what it means for future jobs. Getting the technical training is one of the smartest things I have ever done."

"In your life you meet a certain amount of people who inspire you to have a great work ethic, and Terry is right in there in the top 5 people who have inspired me. I have notable people in the past that I've admired and who make me wake up every morning and work late at night to provide a good life for my employees and my own family, and give service to the community where I grew up. And his work ethic and the way Terry is, he is right up there in my top 5."

About his Super-B, Greg says, "It's bringing a lot of attention. It's just a better product, a more uniform product, and you just can't match the production."

Greg couldn't be happier with his Power Curbers experience. "I definitely have a lot of confidence. It's been wonderful all the way across the board – the whole Power Curbers family. From the guys I've met at World of Concrete, to David and James in the molds department to Lisa in parts – everybody has been so helpful. I am beaming with confidence right now."

"This machine is going to make us some money this year," says Greg. "It's going to take my company to another level."

5700-C-MAX Spotlight



BARRIER WALL

Location: Interstate 26, east of Columbia, SC

Customer: Southern Concrete & Construction, Inc., Anderson, SC

Project: Construction of new highway safety barrier

Application: 30,000 linear feet (9,144 m) of barrier on existing interstate with narrow work zone and sensors running under machine in parapet setup

Specifications: 56" (1.4 m) high with 8" (203.2 mm) top and 30" (762 mm) base

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CASE STUDY

Brock Construction in North Bend, OR, used their 5700-Super-B to pour 4000 ft of new curb and gutter and sidewalk as part of a waterfront revitalization project for the City of Coos Bay.

"The job was a partnership with the city's urban renewal and ODOT," says Greg Brock, owner/operator. "It was a perfect job for the Power Curber to get the curb and gutter line installed quickly to maintain traffic flow, and more importantly, stormwater runoff, as the job was adjacent to

the waterfront."

"There wasn't much room to work – we had just enough room to keep the traffic lanes open," says Greg. Otherwise we would have to pave at night. It was important to keep traffic flowing to not slow up our concrete delivery, too."

Brock Construction was originally supposed to just do the curb and gutter work, but the Super-B brought them a little extra business.

"We just floorboarded him," Greg says of the contractor

who hired them to do the curb work. "He looked at the curb and looked at us and said, 'You know what -I want you guys to do the sidewalks for me, too.' Having the machine on the job has gotten us more work."

"The finished work sure adds to the Coos Bay waterfront and downtown district. The hand railing is imperative to protect pedestrians from the trains that come through daily," Greg says. "Already there are plans to extend the new waterfront to the city of North Bend."



Brock Construction was originally hired to pour the curb and gutter for this project, but once the contractor saw the quality and performance of the Power Curber, he asked them to also pour the sidewalk on the project.



Greg Brock, owner/operator at Brock Construction, realized the value of adding a Power Curber to his business. His 5700-Super-B has already brought in more work for him and his crew.



The finished product adds pedestrian walkways along the Coos Bay waterfront.

"This machine is going to make us some money this year," says Greg. "It's going to take my company to another level."



SF-2700 wins Contractor's Choice Award

The Power Paver SF-2700 was recognized by Roads & Bridges Magazine as a 2015 Contractor's Choice Award winner. Each year, the readers of Roads & Bridges vote for equipment in specific categories; the SF-2700 won the Silver award in the Concrete Pavers category for the second year in a row.

Power Pavers Customers Honored by ICPA

Congratulations to Power Pavers customers Streb Construction Co., Inc. and Metro Pavers, Inc. on being honored by the Iowa Concrete Paving Association (ICPA) at its 51st Annual Concrete Paving Workshop.

Streb Construction received special recognition for their work on Taxiway Echo at the Cedar Rapids airport.

Metro Pavers won recognition for their work in the Arlington Ridge subdivision in North Liberty, road paving in Cedar County (in the municipal overlays category), road improvements in Iowa City, and for parking lot work in Cedar Rapids.

The ICPA and Iowa DOT judge paving projects on several criteria, including workmanship, ride and smoothness, quality control, and complexity.











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