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# Calibration Corner

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Issue 11

July 2019

*A Distinguished Window into the Rough and Tumble World of Calibration*

## A Holiday Edition

Ever since George Washington embarrassed King George III by flicking his forehead and giving him a wet willy in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in front of all the other Old World nation-states, America has enjoyed a healthy rivalry and special relationship with its dentist-less British friends across the Atlantic.

Of course, since DTS is now part of an international, European-based parent organization, and because we have a handful of valued customers outside the U.S. border, we'll



certainly be on our best behavior when it comes to newsletter issues and articles that happen to occur during July – which we'll all remember is the month that the U.S. celebrates the fact that a handful of scrappy, rebellious upstart colonials upended the mighty, redcoat wearing, white-wig fancying, tea-guzzling British empire.

Come to think of it (and unlike Cal Corner's 6<sup>th</sup> issue where there's a chance we poked a little fun at France's Maginot Line oversights), this month we can join with our Trescal HQ compatriots in France given the country's history in providing a completely non-self-serving hand in helping the

colonies shrug off our former scone-munching, blood pudding-slurping overlords.

We at Calibration Corner would definitely refrain from going over the top in some of our references here, and instead find the value in subtly and reasonably looking to our past in humble appreciation, and celebrating our gratitude with our family, friends, and coworkers.

So, we hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, and that you all had the opportunity to pop off some Roman candles in the direction of your closest Limey friend as he or she scampered about in a mild panic with their knickered-legs scrambling every which way!

### About This Issue

- There are at least six fun-filled English stereotypes to help us celebrate independence from the British
- We resized columns, photos, and text boxes precisely 1,776 times to get everything to fit this month

## Ask Kal, the Calibration Quokka



Hey Kal, I'm an avid reader and remember you talking about NIST vs. SI traceable. But you never really discussed what "traceable" meant. Can you explain?

When we talk about "traceability," that refers to a documented unbroken chain of calibrations, each contributing to the measurement uncertainty. You might have a business out there doing Industrial Measurements with a loop calibrator for field testing their own instruments. That business would have to send their loop calibrator to us as a Secondary Laboratory to calibrate with an even better instrument – say, an electrical calibrator standard.

Well, we still need to calibrate our electrical standard, so we might send it to a Primary Lab who has even better equipment than we do. A lot of times that's a manufacturer (who sometimes seems to keep the equipment for months at a time just to be extra sure it's good).

But it doesn't stop there! That manufacturer needs to calibrate their equipment using National Metrology Institutes with even more precise standards yet. But all those calibrations are "traceable" to each end user piece of equipment so that the measurement uncertainty can be verified if needed at the production level. So that's your introduction to traceability!

Have a general calibration-related question you'd like answered?  
Email [newsletter@dts-na.com](mailto:newsletter@dts-na.com) with "Ask Kal" as the subject!



## Diamond Dining

(There's no real reason to force alliteration there, but we did it anyway...)

Like many companies this month, Diamond Technical Services had an Independence Day cookout (at least with anyone who wasn't at a customer site or already on vacation).

Greg ended up having the honor of the grill thrust upon him...so thanks for the work while most everyone else ate!



For questions, comments, concerns, or to opt out of emails, please contact: [newsletter@dts-na.com](mailto:newsletter@dts-na.com)

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