

This day-and-a-half advanced GC course will explore how to troubleshoot a GC problem like the experts. Each of the different symptoms and problem areas will be discussed in detail. The analyst will be taught how to meld GC theory, practical tools, and common sense to narrow down and solve even the most elusive and difficult problems. Attendees will get a chance to test their newly acquired knowledge by applying it to actual problems that have come from other analysts in the industry into the GC technical support group over the years. Participants will need to ask the right questions and suggest possible tests to be tried and discuss those results to determine the root causes. So if you have always wanted to be the technical expert for troubleshooting GC then you need to attend this day and a half course. If you can't make it, send your best analyst instead but be aware that they will return a valuable asset not only to your lab but to anyone's lab. This is not a course for the novice but anyone with a working understanding of GC and its operation, care and maintenance. The instructor brings over 20 years of practical GC troubleshooting experience and has a reputation of making difficult material easy to understand and even fun at times.

Course Outline

- I. GC Theory Review
- II. Carrier Gas/Flow Considerations
- III. Injection Issues – Where it all begins.
- IV. When is it the GC Column, what can you do?
- V. Detectors – Do you see what I see?
- VI. Quantitation – When the numbers aren't right.
- VII. Tools for Troubleshooting
- VIII. Real Problems from the Real World...and Answers!
- IX. Conclusions, Discussion, Q&A



Daron Decker works for Agilent Technologies as a technical specialist within the Consumable and Accessories organization. Prior to joining Agilent he performed the same role with Chromatography Inc. a contractor of technical support for Agilent GC and HPLC columns and supplies. He spent ten years working for J&W Scientific, Inc. also in the area of technical support. Daron has given hundreds of seminars, courses and technical papers on GC (both domestic and international). He started his career at an environmental lab in south central Minnesota (MVTL) and worked there for two and half years as an analytical chemist. He received his BS in Chemistry (ACS Degree) from the University of South Dakota in 1987. Daron has been a longtime proponent of the MCF and member since 1987. He currently lives in Pearland, TX (south of Houston) with his wife and their 4 children. Daron was the 2003 recipient of the MCF Palmer Award.