

C++ NMEA2000 library
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1 Thanks

At first I thank [Kees Verruijt](#) for his excellent [CanBoat](#) project. I originally started to learn NMEA 2000 via [OpenSkipper](#) project, which development I continued. PGN library on OpenSkipper and so on this library is mostly based on Kees work. Also it appeared that some code parts are probably originally from CanBoat even I have found them from other sources. Actisense message format handling I have learned from OpenSkipper project.

I also thank for anybody who has extended library with new PGNs or processor support.

2 Warning

First of all - as normal - you can use library but there is not any guarantee and you use it with your own risk!

3 Introduction

NMEA2000 is object oriented C++ library, which should make it simple to develop own NMEA2000 based devices. I created it because I wanted to get rid of limitations of expensive devices on market. With my first own device on my yacht I could replace three devices – NMEA0183 combiner, NMEA0183->NMEA2000 Converter, NMEA2000->PC converter - with single Arduino Due board and few extra chips.

To use NMEA2000 library you need basic skills for programming. I also try to write simple instructions to start from scratch. Even I have been doing sw and hw development for years, it took some time to dig information from internet to get started with Arduino and do simple tasks like installing library.

For using NMEA2000 library I prefer Arduino Due with MCP2562 chip. For simple things Arduino Mega with CANBUS shield or schematics found under <https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000/tree/master/Documents> is ok. I have not tested smaller boards, but at least some of them should work.

4 Start from scratch and make your first NMEA2000 device

Lets think you have temperature sensor and you like to have it visible on NMEA2000 bus. Here I expect that:

- you already have Arduino Programming IDE installed. If not, do first “[5.1 Getting started with Arduino Programming IDE](#)”.
- you know how to import .zip libraries to Arduino. If not, read help on “[5.2.1 Importing library from zip](#)”.

- you have your Arduino board connected to USB on PC.
- NOTE! Arduino IDE serial monitor must be closed!
- You have right board selected from IDE Tools-Board” and right COM port selected from IDE Tools-Port:

4.1 Preparing to use NMEA2000 library

At first we have to download and install necessary libraries for Arduino and other useful tools.

- Download and install Arduino libraries:
 - <https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000/archive/master.zip>
 - For Arduino Mega or other board with MCP2515 CAN bus controller
 - https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000_mcp/archive/master.zip
 - https://github.com/ttlappalainen/CAN_BUS_Shield/archive/master.zip
 - For Arduino Due
 - https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000_due/archive/master.zip
 - https://github.com/collin80/due_can/archive/master.zip
 - For Teensy 3.2
 - https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000_teeny/archive/master.zip
 - https://github.com/sarfata/NMEA2000_teeny
 - For Atmel AVR processors internal CAN controller
 - https://github.com/thomasonw/NMEA2000_avr
 - https://github.com/thomasonw/avr_can
- Download and install “NMEA Reader”-application from <http://www.actisense.com/products/actisense-software/nmeareader-ebreader/nmea-reader-downloads>

4.2 Try NMEA2000 library with TemperatureMonitor example

4.2.1 Try on PC only

Now we are ready to try sample without N2k bus connection. So you need only Arduino board and PC. No CANBUS shield or extra chips yet!

- Open Example TemperatureMonitor sketch, which came with NMEA2000 library. Select from IDE “Open...”-libraries\NMEA2000-master\Example\TemperatureMonitor\TemperatureMonitor.ino
- uncomment lines
`// Serial.begin(115200);`
`// NMEA2000.SetForwardStream(&Serial);`
and comment line
`NMEA2000.EnableForward(false);`
within setup() function.

- If you are using Arduino Mega, uncomment line
`// NMEA2000.SetDebugMode(tNMEA2000::dm_Actisense);`
within `setup()` function.
We need to do this, since Mega board does not have build in CAN bus controller, so the library would fail, when it tries to open CAN on non debug mode.
- Upload sketch to board.
- Start “NMEA Reader” and from toolbar dropdown select your Arduino COM port.

Now you should see "ISO address claim" (PGN 60928), "Environmental parameters" (PGN 130310) , "Environmental parameters" (PGN 130311) and "Temperature" (PGN 130312) messages on “NMEA Reader”.

NOTE! If you want to upload sketch again to the board, you have to release Arduino programming COM port by selecting port “- NOT SELECTED –“ on “NMEA Reader”.

4.2.2 A bit deeper look in to the TemperatureMonitor example

First note that if you want to modify and save this sample, you have to save it on other location.

4.2.2.1 *Change to use read real data*

If you are happy with sending only cabin and water temperatures to the N2k bus, you simply change functions `ReadCabinTemp()` and `ReadWaterTemp()`. So e.g. if you have sensor providing 10 mV/ °C, you can change the function:

```
double ReadCabinTemp() {  
    return (5.0 * analogRead(A0)*100/1024);  
}
```

Do the same for `ReadWaterTemp()` (naturally you have to use other analog input e.g. A1) and you have your own ready NMEA2000 temperature monitor.

4.2.2.2 *Remove unnecessary messages*

With the library N2k messages will be sent by call `NMEA2000.SendMsg(N2kMsg)`; Before sending you have to setup the variable `N2kMsg`. In that example it has been done for Temperature message with call:

```
SetN2kTemperature(N2kMsg, 1, 1, N2kts_MainCabinTemperature, ReadCabinTemp());
```

So if you do not need cabin temperature message (PGN 130312), simply delete that call `SetN2kTemperature(...)` and next call `NMEA2000.SendMsg(N2kMsg)`; Similarly if you do not provide water temperature, delete calls `SetN2kOutsideEnvironmentalParameters(...)` and call `NMEA2000.SendMsg(N2kMsg)`; after that. Now just upload sketch and open right port to “NMEA Reader” and you should see only "ISO address claim" (PGN 60928) and "Environmental parameters" (PGN 130311) on “NMEA Reader”.

4.2.2.3 *Change the device information*

On NMEA2000 bus each device will tell to the bus what it is. This can be found on sample under `setup()` function.

Call `SetDeviceInformation` is important for right functionality on the bus. If you have only this own device on the bus, you can leave it like it is. In other case take deeper look in to the explanation for the function. Note that if you add several own devices to the bus, you have to configure parameters for this function so that each device will get unic "name" as a combination of these parameters.

Call `SetProductInformation` is not so important, but defines nice to know information. If you have some "Multi Function Display" (MFD) on the bus, it will show on the device list information set by this function. So you can e.g. set the "Manufacturer's Model ID" to "Jack's temperature monitor" and version code and model version as you like, so on your MFD you can see that and choose right device.

4.2.3 **Connecting your sample device to the NMEA2000 bus**

So now we have sketch, which works on the PC. If your sketch runs and shows information in "NMEA Reader", it can be easily connected to the N2k bus. For electrical connection you need either CANBUS shield for Arduino Mega or you can build your own shield. You can find basic drawing for Arduino Mega on

https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000/blob/master/Documents/ArduinoMega_CAN_with_MC_P2515_MCP2551.pdf and for Arduino Due on

https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000/blob/master/Documents/ArduinoDUE_CAN_with_MCP_2562.pdf. There is also drawing for Teensy on

https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000/blob/master/Examples/TeensyActisenseListenerSender/Documents/Teensy_Actisense_listener_sender_schematics.pdf, which has additional USB with Pololu chip, which is only required for two USB solutions. So

- Prepare physical connection to the NMEA2000 bus
- comment line
`NMEA2000.SetDebugMode(tNMEA2000::dm_Actisense);`
within `setup()` function, if you have previously uncommented it.
- Upload the sketch
- On your NMEA2000 "Multi Function Display" (MFD, like Garmin GMI20) add temperature reading visible. For that I can not give more help, since each MFD has different user interface.

Now you should see the temperature reading on your MFD.

If you are not interested in N2k bus messages and you want to add your own debug code, you have to disable message forwarding by uncommenting line

`NMEA2000.EnableForward(false);`

which we commented on [4.2.1](#).

4.3 Try NMEA2000 library with WindMonitor example

This is exactly same as TemperatureMonitor, but sends wind data to the bus. Only necessary function names has been changed. So follow the “4.2 Try NMEA2000 library with TemperatureMonitor example”.

5 Arduino Programming IDE

5.1 Getting started with Arduino Programming IDE

- Download and install Arduino software for suitable OS from <https://www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software>
- If you are using Teensy based boards, download and install also Teensyduino from https://www.pjrc.com/teensy/td_download.html. Note that with Teensyduino you have to check which version of Arduino IDE it supports! !NOTE! Check situation of Teensy FlexCAN library problem under <https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000/issues/50>
- Start newly installed Arduino development IDE from “Arduino”-icon.
- Connect your board to USB
- Select right board for IDE from Tools-Board: NOTE! If you have “Arduino Due” do not mix it to “Arduino Duemilanove”. Select “Arduino Due (programming port)”. If you do not have that in selection list add support for due board selecting Tools-Board: -“Boards Manager...”. Then type “due” to filter box and click found “Arduino SAM Boards...”. Then on left click “Install”
- Select right COM port for IDE from Tools-Port: E.g. for Arduino Mega you should see on the list port: COMx (Arduino/Genuino Mega or Mega 2560)
- Now open your first sketch to IDE. Open File-Examples-01.Basics-AnalogReadSerial
- To see example output, open serial monitor: Tools-“Serial monitor”
- Upload sketch by IDE toolbar button or from menu Sketch-Upload.
- Now you should see board analog pin0 value running on serial monitor.

Now you are ready for your own developing.

5.2 Arduino Libraries

Arduino has both system wide and user libraries.

- System wide libraries are visible for all users and they are located as default e.g. on 64 bit Windows OS under "C:\Program Files (x86)\Arduino\libraries"
- User libraries are visible only for current user and they will be located as default e.g. on Windows OS under “Documents\Arduino\libraries” (“C:\Users\<user>\Documents\Arduino\libraries”)

Arduino IDE installation automatically installs system wide libraries. When you add library with Arduino IDE, it will be added as default for you only. You can make some library visible for all users by moving installed library from your personal libraries to system wide libraries.

5.2.1 Importing library from zip

If someone points you direct link as .zip file to Arduino library, you need only:

- Download library to your PC
- On Arduino IDE select Sketch-“Include Library”-“Add .ZIP Library...”
- Navigate to you download path and select the .zip file you just downloaded and press Open.

So now you should have that library on your personal libraries.

5.2.2 Importing libraries from GitHub

Importing library from GitHub is also very simple. So you have heard or found good link to someone GitHub page.

- Open browser to the link. E.g. <https://github.com/ttlappalainen>
- Select repository, which should contain the Arduino library you are looking for. E.g. NMEA2000 on link above.
- Somewhere on page – currently on right – there is button “Clone or download”. Click that and then on popup button “Download ZIP” and choose “Save to disk” and press “OK”
- Now just follow “5.2.1 Importing library from zip”.

6 NMEA2000 library reference

6.1 Introduction

NMEA2000 is closed standard. You can buy documents for it for high price. As far as I have understood, then you also accept that you are not allowed to tell any third party about document contents. So all the information and experience I have has been collected from free documents and mostly from OpenSkipper project, which development I have been continued. So there may be errors on library. Anyway have tried to make it simple to use, but still giving “NMEA2000 compatibility”.

6.2 Classes

6.2.1 Abstract base class tNMEA2000

The tNMEA2000 class contains functions for NMEA2000 handling like e.g. sending and reading messages. This is pure abstract class and to use real device you have to use suitable inherited class.

Normally you use functions within this class.

6.2.2 Abstract base class tNMEA2000::tMsgHandler

Inherit this class for your own message handler. When new message arrives, all attached handlers, which matches message PGN, will be called by ParseMessages. You can define this handler for single PGN or for all by setting PGN for base class to 0. You can also attach and detach class handler from tNMEA2000 object.

6.2.3 Inherited classes

There are own inherited class for each CAN interface type. As described below e.g. for Arduino Due you use due_can and NMEA2000_due libraries. Since Arduino IDE 1.6.6 it has been possible to include libraries within other headers, so to use any of currently tested board you can simply add includes

```
#include <Arduino.h>
#include "NMEA2000_CAN.h"
```

So the #include <NMEA2000_CAN.h> will then automatically select right library according to the board you have selected on IDE. If you want strictly control includes or the board will not be right selected by NMEA2000_CAN.h, use includes described on each inherited class.

6.2.4 Inherited class tNMEA2000_mcp

The tNMEA2000_mcp is class for using library with CANBUS shield or according to schematic https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000/blob/master/Documents/ArduinoMega_CAN_with_MC_P2515_MCP2551.pdf, which I have made for sample.

To use this class, you need to include in your project beginning:

```
#include <SPI.h>
#include <mcp_can.h>
#include "NMEA2000_mcp.h"
#define N2k_SPI_CS_PIN 53 // Pin for SPI Can Select
tNMEA2000_mcp NMEA2000(N2k_SPI_CS_PIN);
```

You can find the mcp_can library from

https://github.com/ttlappalainen/CAN_BUS_Shield/archive/master.zip. Originally it was developed by SeedStudio https://github.com/Seeed-Studio/CAN_BUS_Shield, but they have not yet updated all features, what peppeve or I had added or fixed.

6.2.5 Inherited class tNMEA2000_due

The tNMEA2000_due class is for using library with Arduino Due, which has internal can bus controller. I personally prefer this board, since it is more powerful. It also has separate USB port. Also the physical interface to the bus is simpler. You can find sample schematic on https://github.com/ttlappalainen/NMEA2000/blob/master/Documents/ArduinoDUE_CAN_with_MCP_2562.pdf.

To use this class, you need to include in your project beginning:

```
#include <due_can.h>
#include "NMEA2000_due.h"
tNMEA2000_due NMEA2000;
```

You can find the due_can library from https://github.com/collin80/due_can.

6.2.6 Inherited class tNMEA2000_tensy

The tNMEA2000_tensy class is for using library with Teensy 3.2 board, which has internal can bus controller. Physical interface is similar as with Arduino Due.

To use this class, you need to include in your project beginning:

```
#include "NMEA2000_tensy.h"
tNMEA2000_tensy NMEA2000;
```

6.2.7 Inherited class tNMEA2000_avr

The tNMEA2000_tensy clas is for using library avr based boards. I have not yet experience of them, but thomasonw uses them.

To use this class, you need to include in your project beginning:

```
#include "NMEA2000_avr.h"
tNMEA2000_avr NMEA2000;
```

6.2.8 Message container class tN2kMsg

This is the class for containing N2k (PGN) message. It contains pure data and functions to handle it. At least for now there is no automated system, which could you easily fill or read data for specific PGN. You have to know the PGN information fields like for NMEA0183 data fields. I and other developers have written functions, which has been defined on N2kMessages.h, which helps you the fill or read data on tN2kMsg object. As in example TemperatureMonitor you send PGN 130312 (Temperature) message with simple code:

```
tN2kMsg N2kMsg;

SetN2kTemperature(N2kMsg, 1, 1, N2kts_MainCabinTemperature, ReadCabinTemp());
NMEA2000.SendMsg(N2kMsg);
```

So as you see, you do not need to know much about tN2kMsg to use it. It is simple container. Note that there are functions SetN2k130312 and inline function SetN2kTemperature, which simply calls SetN2kPGN130312. This makes code easier to read (I hope), since you do not need to see PGN numbers there. But it's your choice, which function you will use.

I prefer that if you need something, which is not already on N2kMessages.h, I'll add it there or if you are familiar with NMEA 2000 message structures and Github, you can fork library and add it yourself. So then it is available for anybody.

6.2.9 Group function (PGN 126208) handler class `tN2kGroupFunctionHandler`

NMEA 2000 definition requires that devices should respond to group function messages. This class is the default handler, which simply responds “unsupported” for all queries.

6.2.10 Inherited group function handler `tN2kGroupFunctionHandlerForPGN 60928`

This class handles mandatory group function requests and commands for PGN 60928.

6.2.11 Device list collector class `tN2kDeviceList`

This class can be used to read devices on the connected NMEA 2000 bus. When the class has been attached to `tNMEA2000` object, it will automatically collect and update information of devices on the bus.

On the NMEA 2000 bus all devices (also called nodes) have their own source address. This source can change e.g. when new devices will be added. In principle on a steady system the source will be the same. The safer way is to use the device “Name” which should be unique. So if you e.g. have two speed logs and you want to specify the one you want to use, you can use `tN2kDeviceList` class to search for the source address for a specified name and then read log messages from that source.

6.3 Using `tNMEA2000`

There are several examples for using the library with different functions like for only listening to bus data (`ActisenseListener.ino`), sending temperature (`TemperatureMonitor.ino`) or wind data (`WindMonitor.ino`) from your own sources or displaying bus data somehow (`DisplayData.ino` and `DisplayData2.ino`). With combination of those or adding NMEA0183 library functions, you can have full control for your N2k bus information.

I have already owned a device, which reads data from old NMEA0183 devices and forwards it to the N2k bus, but the same device also forwards data from the bus to the PC. It also listens on an input pin – MOB and when that is activated, it will start to send route information back to the activation position. I have also connected temperature and fuel consumption monitors to the N2k bus.

So below is a short description of member functions, which hopefully gives you better knowledge why something has been used in the examples.

6.3.1 Device modes

In principle all devices should act as a node on the N2k bus. But if you are only reading messages on the bus, why tell anybody. So I have defined different modes how `tNMEA2000` class behaves.

6.3.1.1 `tNMEA2000::N2km_ListenOnly`

This is the default mode. The device simply listens to data from the bus and forwards it to the forward stream. Look at the example `ActisenseListener`, you need only 20 lines for making a device to read data on the N2k bus.

Also if you like to make a device, which shows some data on the bus on e.g. a TFT display, you can use this mode. There is a simple example `DataDisplay` for that.

6.3.1.2 *tNMEA2000::N2km_NodeOnly*

In this mode device will only send data to the N2k bus. I also automatically informs itself to other devices on the bus and does required address claiming automatically. Device does not send as default anything to any forward stream.

Use this mode for device, which simply e.g. reads data from analog or digital input or NMEA0183 bus and sends it to the N2k bus. Look example TemperatureMonitor.

6.3.1.3 *tNMEA2000::N2km_ListenAndNode*

In this mode device works fully to both directions. It also forwards all data from bus to the forward stream, which you can define with function [6.3.5.24 SetForwardStream](#).

6.3.1.4 *tNMEA2000::N2km_SendOnly*

In this mode it is like *tNMEA2000::N2km_NodeOnly*, but it does not do automatic address claiming and does not forward any messages from N2k bus to stream. So this is useful, if you e.g. have some control pair like autopilot keypad/"control unit" and you want to fool that keypad sends something to the "control unit". Then you also need to know also source addresses of keypad and "control unit".

I have used this mode e.g. with example ActisenseSender and my NMEA Simulator found on <http://www.kave.fi/Apps/>.

6.3.1.5 *tNMEA2000::N2km_ListenAndSend*

This is like the *tNMEA2000::N2km_SendOnly* mode, but it also forwards messages from N2k bus to the stream. In this mode one can have invisible gateway device between computer and N2k bus. This mode can be used e.g. if one has PC application, which is capable to read and send messages in Actisense format to serial port.

I have use this mode with example TeensyActisenseListenerSender and Actisense NMEA Reader and NMEA Simulator.

6.3.2 Message forwarding

Normally on N2k bus device either shows data from bus (MFD devices) or sends data to the bus (wind, GPS, temperature etc.). With library you can also get messages forwarded to the stream. In listen mode, device will read all messages from N2k bus and forwards all messages to the ForwardStream. For forwarding you have to define forward stream with function [6.3.5.24 SetForwardStream](#). Ofcoarce you also need to open stream first e.g. with `Serial.begin(115200);`

Messages will be forwarded as default in Actisense format. This is supported by at least some PC chart plotter applications. With default format Actisence "NMEA Reader", which we used on sample, can show message data. Better visualizer is OpenSkipper, on which you can tailor your own displays.

Note also that as default own messages send with `tNMEA2000.SendMsg` will be forwarded even you device has been set to node only mode. This may disturb your developing, if you e.g. want to write own clear text messages within your code. You can disable that by either

- `tNMEA2000::EnableForward(false)` to disable forwarding totally
- `tNMEA2000::SetForwardOwnMessages(false)` to disable own messages. But then, if your device is in listen mode, it will still forward messages from bus.
- `tNMEA2000::SetForwardOnlyKnownMessages(true)` to define that only known messages will be forwarded. The known messages are system messages and listed single frame or fast packet messages. See also [6.3.5.10 SetSingleFrameMessages](#), [6.3.5.11 SetFastPacketMessages](#), [6.3.5.12 ExtendSingleFrameMessages](#) and [6.3.5.13 ExtendFastPacketMessages](#).

6.3.3 Debug mode

Debug mode is as default set to `tNMEA2000::dm_None`. In other debug modes device will not send anything to the N2k bus.

Debug mode `tNMEA2000::dm_Actisense` is usefull, if you do not have board with internal CAN bus controller, because in that mode it does not try to open CAN bus during sending message. Instead it simply writes message to the forward stream, which you can read e.g. with “NMEA Reader” and see that your device is sending message right.

Debug mode `tNMEA2000::dm_ClearText` defines that messages will be send to forward stream as clear text. Unfortunately on clear text there are only source, destination, priority data length and PGN shown as clear text. Data itself will be shown as hex.

6.3.4 Multi device support

In NMEA 2000 bus you have devices or also called nodes. Normally each physical device is one device on the bus. I have not seen any requirement that device could not serve as engine information (device class 50 – propulsion) or sensor information (device class 75 - Sensor Communication Interface) interface at same time and just use device class 25 (Inter/Intranetwork Device) and function 132 (Analog to NMEA 2000 Gateway). Anyway I just noticed that e.g. B&G Vulcan 7 chartplotter acts as multi device. I do not know are these devices different chips inside Vulcan or are they within same code as my multi device.

If you like show different functions as own device on the bus, you can do that with multi device support. All you need to do is to first set device count (see `SetDeviceCount`), set device and product information for each device and on sending messages use right device index. See example `MultiDevice`.

6.3.5 Member functions

6.3.5.1 *SetDeviceCount*

With this function you can enable multi device support. As default there is only one device. Note that to enable multi device support, you need to call this before any other `tNMEA2000` class function.

6.3.5.2 *SetN2kCANMsgBufSize*

With this function you can set size of buffer, where system stores incoming messages. The default size is 5 messages.

Some messages are just single frame messages and they will be read in and handled immediately on call to ParseMessages. For multi framed fast packet messages there is no guarantee that all frames will arrive in order. So these messages will be buffered and saved until all frames has been received.

If it is not critical to handle all fast packet messages like with N2km_NodeOnly, you can set buffer size smaller like 3 or 2 by calling this before open.

6.3.5.3 *SetN2kCANSendFrameBufSize*

With this function you can set size of buffer, where system saves frames of messages to be sent. The default size is 40 frames so totally 320 bytes. Call this before any device related function like SetProductInformation.

When sending long messages like ProductInformation or GNSS data, there may not be enough low level buffers for sending data successfully. This depends of your hw and device source. Device source has effect due to priority of getting sending slot on low level device. If your data is critical, use buffer size, which is large enough.

E.g. Product information takes totally 134 bytes. This needs 20 frames. GNSS contains 47 bytes, which needs 7 frames. If you want to be sure that both will be sent on any situation, you need at least 27 frame buffer size.

6.3.5.4 *SetProductInformation*

If you are using device modes tNMEA2000::N2km_NodeOnly or tNMEA2000::N2km_ListenAndNode, it would be good that you set this information. With this you can set how e.g. Multi Function Displays (MFD) will show your device information. This is not critical, but nice to have it right.

See example TemperatureMonitor.ino.

6.3.5.5 *SetDeviceInformation*

If you are using device modes tNMEA2000::N2km_NodeOnly or tNMEA2000::N2km_ListenAndNode, it is **critical** that you set this information. Note that you should set information so that it is unique over the world! Well if you are making device only for your own yacht N2k bus, it is enough to be unique there. So e.g. if you have two temperature monitors made by this library, you have to set at least first parameter UniqueNumber different for both of them.

Device information will be used to choose right address for your device (also called node) on the bus. Each device must have own address. Library will do this automatically, so it is enough that you call this function on setup to define your device.

6.3.5.6 *SetDeviceInformationInstances*

With this function you can set device instance lower, device instance upper and system instance values.

6.3.5.7 *GetDeviceInformation*

With this function you can read current device information. Normally device information contains what you have set during initializing with `SetDeviceInformation` and `SetDeviceInformationInstances` functions. Note that device information instances can be changed by NMEA 2000 group function by e.g. using system configuration device. So you should time to time check have they changed and save changed data to e.g. EEPROM for use on startup.

See [6.3.5.32 *ReadResetDeviceInformationChanged*](#)

6.3.5.8 *SetConfigurationInformation*

With this function you can set configuration information, which will be saved on device RAM. As an alternative you can set configuration information saved on progmem with

6.3.5.9 *SetProgmemConfigurationInformation*

Configuration information is just some extra information about device and manufacturer. Some MFDs shows it, some does not. E.g. NMEA Reader can show configuration information.

6.3.5.9 *SetProgmemConfigurationInformation*

With this function you can set configuration information, which will be saved on device program memory. See example `BatteryMonitor.ino`.

As default system has build in configuration information on progmem. If you do not want to have configuration information at all, you can disable it by calling `SetConfigurationInformation(0)`;

6.3.5.10 *SetSingleFrameMessages*

As a default library has a list of known messages. With this function user can override default list of single frame messages. See also [6.3.5.12 *ExtendSingleFrameMessages*](#).

6.3.5.11 *SetFastPacketMessages*

As a default library has a list of known messages. With this function user can override default list of fast packet messages. See also [6.3.5.13 *ExtendFastPacketMessages*](#).

Note that if incoming fast packet message is not known, it will be treated as single frame message. So if you want to handle unknown fast packet message, you need to duplicate frame collection logic from library to your code. So it is easier to have fast packet messages listed on library, if you want to handle them.

6.3.5.12 *ExtendSingleFrameMessages*

As a default library has a list of known messages. With this function user can add own list of known single frame messages. Note that currently subsequent calls will override previously set list.

6.3.5.13 *ExtendFastPacketMessages*

As a default library has a list of known messages. With this function user can add own list of known fast packet messages. Note that currently subsequent calls will override previously set list.

Note that if incoming fast packet message is not known, it will be treated as single frame message. So if you want to handle unknown fast packet message, you need to duplicate frame collection logic from

library to your code. So it is easier to have fast packet messages listed on library, if you want to handle them.

6.3.5.14 *ExtendTransmitMessages*

System should respond to PGN 126464 request with messages system transmits and receives. Library will automatically respond with system messages it uses. With this method you can add messages, which your own code sends. Note that this is valid only for device modes [6.3.1.2 tNMEA2000::N2km_NodeOnly](#) and [6.3.1.3 tNMEA2000::N2km_ListenAndNode](#).

6.3.5.15 *ExtendReceiveMessages*

Method is like [6.3.5.14 ExtendTransmitMessages](#), but extends messages you code handles.

6.3.5.16 *SendIsoAddressClaim*

This is automatically used by class. You only need to use this, if you want to write your own behavior for address claiming.

6.3.5.17 *SendProductInformation*

This is automatically used by class. You only need to use this, if you want to write your own behavior for providing product information.

6.3.5.18 *SendConfigurationInformation*

This is automatically used by class. You only need to use this, if you want to write your own behavior for providing configuration information.

6.3.5.19 *SetHeartbeatInterval*

According to document <https://www.nmea.org/Assets/20140102%20nmea-2000-126993%20heartbeat%20pgn%20corrigendum.pdf> all NMEA devices shall transmit heartbeat PGN 126993. With this function you can set transmission interval in ms (range 1000-655320 ms, default 60000). Set <1000 to disable it. You can temporary change interval by setting SetAsDefault parameter to false. Then you can restore default interval with interval parameter value 0xffffffff

6.3.5.20 *GetHeartbeatInterval*

Heartbeat interval may be changed by e.g. MFD by group function. I have not yet found should changed value be saved for next startup or not like address

6.3.5.21 *SendHeartbeat*

Library will automatically send heartbeat, if interval is >0. You can also manually send it any time or force sent, if interval=0;

6.3.5.22 *SetMode*

With SetMode you can define how your node acts on N2k bus. See [6.3.1 Device modes](#).

Note that with this function you can also set default address for your device. It is mandatory that once your device has been connected to the bus, it tries always use last used address. Due to address claiming, your device may change its address, when you add new devices to the bus. So you should save last used address to the e.g. EEPROM and on startup read it there and use it as parameter for

SetMode. You can check has your address you set originally by SetMode changed by using function **6.3.5.31 ReadResetAddressChanged** and you can read current address by function **6.3.5.30 GetN2kSource**.

So you could do next:

```
void setup() {
  ...
  NMEA2000.SetMode(tNMEA2000::N2km_NodeOnly,GetLastSavedN2kAddressFromEEPROM());
  ...
}

...
void loop() {
  SendN2kTemperature();
  NMEA2000.ParseMessages();
  if (NMEA2000.ReadResetAddressChanged()) {
    SaveN2kAddressToEEPROM(GetN2kSource());
  }
}
```

See example TemperatureMonitor.ino.

6.3.5.23 SetForwardType

With this function user can set how messages will be forwarded to the stream. Possible values are:

- fwdt_Actisense (default), forwards messages is Actisense format. Some navigation softwares can read this format.
- fwdt_Text, forwards messages to output port in clear text. I see this useful only for testing with normal serial monitors.

6.3.5.24 SetForwardStream

As default, forward stream has been set to null. For e.g. Arduino Due you can set it to SerialUSB, so you can use Serial for other things. You can of coarse use any stream available on your device.

See example ActisenseListenerSender.ino.

6.3.5.25 Open

You can call this on Setup(). It will be called anyway automatically by first call of ParseMessages().

6.3.5.26 SendMsg

When you want to send some message to the N2k bus, you call this. Before calling you have to prepare tN2kMsg type of message e.g. by using some function in N2kMessages.

Note also that as default tNMEA2000 object is as default in tNMEA2000::N2km_ListenOnly mode. So if you want to send messages, you have to set right mode in Setup().

Function returns true, if message was sent successfully, otherwise it return false. SendMsg may fail, if there is not room for message frames on sending buffer or device is not open.

SendMsg does not always send message immediately. If lower level sending function fails, SendMsg will buffer message frames and try to send them on next call to SendMsg or ParseMessages. So to have reliable sending, you need sending buffer, which is large enough.

See example TemperatureMonitor.ino.

6.3.5.27 ParseMessages

You have to call this periodically on loop(), otherwise tNMEA2000 object will not work at all. Note also that it is not good practice to have any delay() on you loop(), since then also handling of this will be delayed.

See example TemperatureMonitor.ino.

6.3.5.28 SetMsgHandler

If you want to do something with messages read from N2k bus, easiest is to set message handler, which will be then called by **ParseMessages**, if there are new messages. This is the case e.g. if you have LCD display on your Arduino and you want to show some fluid level on it.

See example DataDisplay.ino or DataDisplay2.ino

6.3.5.29 SetISORqstHandler

Devices on N2k bus may request from your device can it handle requested PGN. If you want to respond for ISO request, you should set this handler. The handler will be called by **ParseMessages**, if there is ISO request.

Note that when you send request message with SendMsg and it fails, it is your responsibility to take care of sending response again later. If your sending buffer is larger enough, it is very uncommon that SendMsg fails.

6.3.5.30 GetN2kSource

With this function you can get you device current address on the N2k bus.

See **6.3.5.22 SetMode** and **6.3.5.31 ReadResetAddressChanged**

6.3.5.31 ReadResetAddressChanged

With this function you can check has your device address you initiated with SetMode been changed after last call. For certified NMEA 2000 devices it is mandatory save changed address to e.g. EEPROM, for use in next startup.

See **6.3.5.22 SetMode** and **6.3.5.30 GetN2kSource**

6.3.5.32 ReadResetDeviceInformationChanged

With this function you can check has your device device instances or system instances changed. For certified NMEA 2000 devices it is mandatory save changed info to e.g. EEPROM, for initialize them in next startup.

See **6.3.5.6 SetDeviceInformationInstances** and **6.3.5.7 GetDeviceInformation**

6.3.5.33 *EnableForward*

Set true as default. With this you can control will bus messages be forwarded to forward stream. See [6.3.2 Message forwarding](#).

6.3.5.34 *SetForwardSystemMessages*

Set true as default. With this you can control will system messages like address caliming, device information be forwarded to forward stream.

If you set this false, system messages will not be forwarded to the stream.

6.3.5.35 *SetForwardOnlyKnownMessages*

Set false as default. With this you can control will unknown messages be forwarded to forward stream.

If you set this true, all unknown message will not be forwarded to the stream. Note that this does not effect for own messages.

Known messages are listed on library. See [6.3.5.10 SetSingleFrameMessages](#), [6.3.5.11 SetFastPacketMessages](#), [6.3.5.12 ExtendSingleFrameMessages](#) and [6.3.5.13 ExtendFastPacketMessages](#).

6.3.5.36 *SetForwardOwnMessages*

Set true as default. With this you can control will messages your device sends to bus be forwarded to forward stream.

6.3.5.37 *SetHandleOnlyKnownMessages*

Set false as default. With this you can control will unknown messages be handled at all.

Known messages are listed on library. See [6.3.5.10 SetSingleFrameMessages](#), [6.3.5.11 SetFastPacketMessages](#), [6.3.5.12 ExtendSingleFrameMessages](#) and [6.3.5.13 ExtendFastPacketMessages](#).

6.3.5.38 *SetDebugMode*

If you do not have physical N2k bus connection and you like to test your board without even CAN controller, you can use this function. See [6.3.3 Debug mode](#).