

GPS NMEA data on ER9X

Thanks to Jean-Pierre Parisy who helped me with the unloved C++

With this modification, you can display some live GPS Data on the Tx display.

You **enter** the NMEA screen 1/4 with DOWN[**long**] from the normal system screens.

You **step through** the screens with DOWN[short] or UP[short].

You **leave** the NMEA screens with EXIT[**long**].

As the first valid information that the GPS module sends is time and date, this screen is entered first (1/4).

Stepping down, my most important information is displayed, altitude and lift (2/4).

Next screen shows speed and course over ground, maybe useful for some gliders (3/4).

Last screen is latitude and longitude, not really needed during flight, but supplied from GPS (4/4).

On screen 2/4 Altitude and Lift, the lift option has a beep option. The beep is activated by default.

Whenever lift is positive, that is, greater or equal zero, you hear a short beep, once a second, to inform you that the model is not sinking.

You can deactivate or reactivate the beep with the + and – keys (LEFT[short] or RIGHT[short]).

The screens are shown in detail on the following pages.

UTC-Time and Date

UP[short] --> NMEA 4/4
DOWN[short] --> NMEA 2/4
MENU[short] --> switch from UTC-Date to Timer and vice versa
EXIT[long] --> Exit to system screens



UTC-Time and Timer

UP[short] --> NMEA 4/4
DOWN[short] --> NMEA 2/4
MENU[short] --> switch from Timer to UTC-Date
EXIT[short] --> reset timer to 00:00
EXIT[long] → Exit to system screens



Absolute altitude over sea level and up / down lift

Lift has a **beeper** for positive lift, that can be enabled / disabled

UP[short] --> NMEA 2/4
DOWN[short] --> NMEA 4/4
LEFT[short] --> Up-Lift beeper off
RIGHT[short] --> Up-Lift beeper on

MENU[short] --> alternate between absolute and relative altitude
EXIT[short] --> reset home altitude to zero
EXIT[short],MENU[long] --> Set actual altitude as home altitude
EXIT[long] --> Exit to system screens



Altitude relative to a settable home altitude



Speed over Ground and Course over Ground

UP[short] --> NMEA 1/4
DOWN[short] --> NMEA 2/4
EXIT[long] --> Exit to system screens



Latitude and Longitude

UP[short] --> NMEA 4/4
DOWN[short] --> NMEA 2/4
HOME[short] --> STAT screen
EXIT[long] --> Exit to system screens



To use the NMEA build of er9x you will need to make some modifications to the hardware in your radio. These modifications require soldering of small tracks on the radio circuit board. Be warned that it is possible to damage the board permanently if care is not taken.

You must have the program to configure your GPS mouse (e.g. SIRFDemo.exe, depends on your GPS mouse) and you must have the program to configure the APC modules (RF-Magic-42.exe from sureelectronics.net).

To attach the GPS mouse and the APC200 modules to the PC, you probably have to solder some temporary cables, that allow you to attach them to the COM port of your computer.

It requires, that you apply the telemetry mod to the TX to free up the input pin on the ATmega64 of the TX <http://code.google.com/p/gruvin9x/wiki/FrskyInterfacing>

Note: You only need to follow the rewire instructions. No need to build the interface with the level converter.

I have used the following circuits:



APC200



GM-210

A GPS mouse **Holux GM210** (<http://www.ebay.de/itm/180653870348>) combined with an **APC200** (<http://www.sureelectronics.net/goods.php?id=1053>) transceiver module (431MHz - 478 MHz) as transmitter (to be attached to the plane) and another APC200 transceiver as ground receiver that feeds the GPS data signal into the ATmega64 of the TX.

GM210 as well as APC200 work with 5 volt supply voltage and have UART input and output with TTL and RS232 level. This way, they can be connected easily with each other and/or to a PC for reprogramming without the need of any level change adapter.

GPS receivers normally output their data as records in NMEA format. This is pure ASCII data and is commonly used.

There are many different NMEA records available that contain different data. But not all records are supported by every module.

Normally you can configure the module, which records and at what repetition rate these records are to be output from the GPS receiver.

I have configured the GM210 to output **\$GPGGA and \$GPRMC records once a second** at 4800 Bd.

The APC200 modules that transmit at a selectable RF of 431 - 478 MHz and a maximum output of 10bwm are mid range modules (to my opinion). I verified a ground range of over 800 m with nearly (but not really) free line of sight.

The maximum range of the APC200 modules increases with lower over the air transmission speed.

Over the air transmission speed and UART serial input / output speed can be configured independently.

I have set up the RF transmission speed to 2400 Bd and the serial UART speed to 4800 Bd. That means, that the GPS mouse has to send with 4800 Bd, the APC200 transmitter sends over the air at 2400 Bd, the APC200 receiver outputs with UART speed of 4800 Bd and the TX reads the data with 4800 Bd.

This is possible without data loss, because the APC200 has a buffer of 512 bytes and the selected NMEA records have a total of about 150 Bytes only, once per second.

The ER9x NMEA modification reads the data via UART, extracts the required fields and displays them on four different screens shown above.

Step 1

Verify, that you have everything available

A PC that has a COM port
the program to configure the GPS mouse
the program to configure the APC200 transceivers

the GPS mouse
two APC200 transceivers
The resistors for the telemetry mod
one or two SUBD female plugs
one or two servo cables

Step 2:

Program the GPS mouse.

You need a program like SirfDemo.exe and a cable, that connects the RS232 signals from the mouse to the com port of your computer.

GM210		SUBD female to COM port
pin 2 green	-----	pin 3
pin 3 yellow	-----	pin 2
pin 1 red	-----	+5volt (servo cable)
pin 5 white	-----	pin 5
	-----	ground (servo cable)

Step 3:

To save some weight on the GPS mouse, remove the housing. You have to, more or less, destroy the housing as upper and lower half are glued together and must be pried open with some force.



Step 4:

Cut the original mouse cable to still have enough length to connect the mouse with the APC200
As power supply, use a servo cable and solder it to pins 1 and 2 of the APC200 (watch polarity)

GM210		APC200
pin 1 red	-----	pin 2 + 5Volt
pin 4 blue	-----	pin 5 TTL Tx
pin 5 white	-----	pin 1 ground
pin 6 black	-----	pin 4 TTL Rx

To power your GPS with transmitter, plug the servo cable into an unused servo position of the receiver or use a Y-cable splitter.

Check, that the LED of the GPS mouse lights up.

Step 5:

Verify, that all the switches do work.

Apply the telemetry mod to the TX to free up the input pin on the ATmega64 of the TX according to this description

<http://code.google.com/p/gruvin9x/wiki/FrskyInterfacing>

Note: You only need to follow the rewire instructions. No need to build the interface with the level converter.

Verify, that two of the switches do no longer work.

Flash the TX with the NMEA version of ER9x

Verify, that all switches now work correctly.

That verifies, that the telemetry mod has been done correctly

Press DOWN[long] to enter the telemetry display

Press UP or DOWN[short] to step through the screens

All the values should show a big questionmark

Press EXIT[long] to leave the telemetry screens

Step 6:

Connect the APC200 module to the TX

APC200

TGY 9X

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-----  
TTL Tx  Pin 5  ----- via resistor of 1K to Pin 2 of ATmega  
+5Volt  Pin 2  ----- +5 Volt  
Ground  Pin 1  ----- Ground
```

Step 7:

power on the GPS-transmitter and the TX

Most of the fields will be similar to 0000.000

UTC-Time and Date will be the first values to display real values.

When the GPS mouse gets a fix, all the fields (except course over ground) will show the correct values.

Course over ground requires, that the receiver moves.

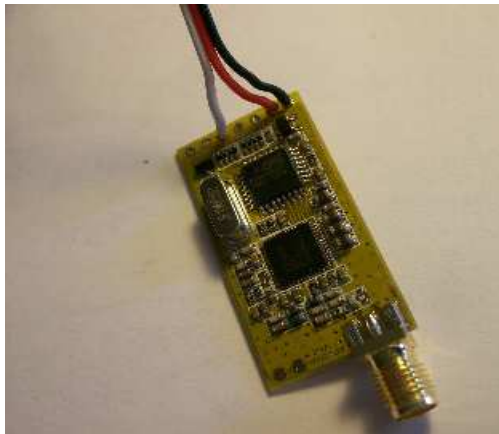
NMEA transmitter

GPS module from backside with the RF module and an externally connected backup battery



NMEA receiver

Module with pins unsoldered and cable directly attached



Hole for the antenna connector



Antenna connector on the backside of Tx case



Module, switch and servocable, secured with hot glue



Mounted antenna, module and power switch



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-----some technical background-----

NMEA Records:

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The length of the individual fields may vary (even be empty), but all Fields are always there and are separated by colon.

\$GPGGA data is valid when field 6 <> "0" (Null)

\$GPRMC data is valid when field 2 <> "V"

UTC-Date and UTC-Time are available some time before the GPS gets a fix

Sample with position not fixed:

=====

\$GPGGA,130607.704,5014.8588,N,01123.8331,E,0,01,0.0,0.0,M,47.7,M,0.0,0.0000*73

\$GPRMC,130607.704,V,5014.8588,N,01123.8331,E,0.00,,110211,,*0D

Sample with position fixed:

=====

\$GPGGA,130415.711,5014.8480,N,01123.9166,E,1,08,1.0,387.2,M,47.7,M,0.0,0.0000*79

\$GPRMC,130415.711,A,5014.8480,N,01123.9166,E,2.59,312.81,110211,,*0E

Layout of the \$GPGGA record

\$GPGGA - Global Positioning System Fix Data, Time, Position and fix related data for a GPS receiver.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

\$GPGGA,hhmmss.ss,lll.ll,a,yyyyy.yy,a,x,xx,x.x,x.x,M,x.x,M,x.x,xxxx*hh<CR><LF>

Field Number:

- 1) Universal Time Coordinated (UTC)
- 2) Latitude
- 3) N or S (North or South)
- 4) Longitude
- 5) E or W (East or West)
- 6) GPS Quality Indicator,
 - 0 - fix not available,
 - 1 - GPS fix,
 - 2 - Differential GPS fix
- 7) Number of satellites in view, 00 - 12
- 8) Horizontal Dilution of precision
- 9) Antenna Altitude above/below mean-sea-level (geoid)
- 10) Units of antenna altitude, meters
- 11) Geoidal separation, the difference between the WGS-84 earth ellipsoid and mean-sea-level (geoid), "-" means mean-sea-level below ellipsoid
- 12) Units of geoidal separation, meters
- 13) Age of differential GPS data, time in seconds since last SC104 type 1 or 9 update, null field when DGPS is not used
- 14) Differential reference station ID, 0000-1023
- 15) Checksum

Layout of the \$GPRMC record

\$GPRMC - Recommended Minimum Navigation Information

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

\$GPRMC,hhmmss.ss,A,lll.ll,a,yyyyy.yy,a,x.x,x.x,xxxx,x.x,a*hh<CR><LF>

Field Number:

- 1) UTC Time
- 2) Status, V = Navigation receiver warning
- 3) Latitude
- 4) N or S
- 5) Longitude
- 6) E or W
- 7) Speed over ground, knots
- 8) Track made good, degrees true. = = Course over ground (COG)
- 9) Date, ddmmyy
- 10) Magnetic Variation, degrees
- 11) E or W
- 12) Checksum

Checksum calculation

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my_d is that part of the NMEA record that is between "\$" and "**"

'All the bytes are XORed

(This is how I calculate the checksum in HB++)

```
for n=1 to len(my_d)
    myhi=mid(my_d,n,1)
    cs=cs xor asc(myhi)
next
```

Checksum= right("0" & hex(cs),2) 'to get a 2 character string