Setting up your GPS to output NMEA 0183 sentences

It is rare that a GPS is set up out of the box to transmit NMEA 0183 position information to another device. The following procedure sets up a Garmin GPS 45, 45XL, or 12XL handheld GPS unit to output NMEA 0183 for use by a computer or other NMEA "listener".   Other GPS units can be set up similarly; consult your user's manual for specific instructions.

1. Power on GPS.
2. Press PAGE button to bring up MENU.
3. Press UP/DOWN ARROW button to select I/O SETUP (GPS 45) or INTERFACE (GPS 45XL or GPS 12 XL).
4. Press ENTER button to select INTERFACE menu.
5. Press ENTER button to select 1st line of INTERFACE menu.
6. Press ENTER button to select 1st letter of current interface (probably GRMN/GRMN).
7. Press UP/DOWN ARROW button to select NMEA/NMEA.
8. Press Enter button to select 2nd line of INTERFACE menu.
9. Press ENTER button to select 1st letter of current interface version (probably NMEA 0183 1.5).
10. Press UP/DOWN ARROW button to select NMEA 0183 2.0.
11. Check that the 3rd line of the INTERFACE menu is set to 4800 baud. If it is not, repeat the setup process used for the preceding two lines to set the line to 4800 baud.
12. Press PAGE button to return to other GPS fuctions .

The NMEA/NMEA parameter is used for GPS communication to other devices such as computers or chart plotters. If you wish to communicate information *from* your computer *to* your GPS (to transfer waypoints or routes from a charting program to the GPS' memory), use the above procedure to reset the GPS to GRMN/GRMN mode. Consult your user's manual for specific instructions for other units.