



To celebrate the release of *The Errant King*, in association with AMG International Publishing, it gives me great pleasure to announce to my readers: the 1st Seek the Stars Contest!

WHAT IS IT?

The Seek the Stars Contest is an opportunity for my readers to have EPIC fun, exercising their God-given talents to form communities of readers and spread the word about books they know and love.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Fun. First of all, we all love to communicate with others about the things we love. We all need friends. Competing in the Seek the Stars Contest gives you the opportunity to do both. But there are, shall we say, a few prizes involved as well. More to come soon about all the specifics, but here are some items you could win:

- A Brand New Amazon Kindle!
- Ownership of your very own Star. Not kidding. Some winners will be able to have a real star registered in his/her name or even in his her team name!
- Free eBook downloads.
- All kinds of unlockables: behind the scenes Dark Sea Annals stuff, custom artwork, desktops, posters, Original Dark Sea Music Tracks, online games and more!
- A few hard-working winners will become Books-For-Life Guild Members. These folk get a signed copy of each and every book that I ever write!
- Get your name in the Acknowledgment Section of my next book.
- Get a character in my next book named after you!

WHEN DOES IT START?

The contest kicks off on DARK SEA SATURDAY, that is: Saturday, November 26th and ends SEVEN months later on Tuesday, June 26th. The number Seven is significant. Remember it! The start date is today. But, of course, you kinda know that, right?

How Do I Enter?

Step 1: Send me an email at batguy21784@yahoo.com and, in the email's subject line, say one of the following:

A) I want to **Found** a Starseekers Constellation --or--

B) I want to **Join** a Starseekers Constellation.

In the email please include your name (or Fantasy Name) and the State in which you live. I don't need addresses or any other personal info. **But I do need the state.**

The difference between Founders and Members will be explained in detail later in the packet. But for now, think of it like this: Founders and Members are both players, but the Founders are kind of like the team captains. There will be SEVEN **Starseeker Constellations** (teams) in the contest. The 1st seven folks who write me to claim a constellation will become "Founders." Founders agree to be the "point person" for the team.

Step 2: Go crazy earning **Cyrium Points**! Check out the full list of **Starseeker Tasks** later in the packet. There are SO many things you can do to earn points you could probably do a different task everyday for the whole contest and still not run out of things to do. Just remember to keep track of what you've done, saving links, digital receipts, etc. as proof of task completion.

Step 3: In a week or so you'll get an email from me, letting you know "officially" that you are a Founder or a Member. You'll find out which of the constellations you'll be joining*. I will also give you the Top Secret web address of the official **Starseeker Forum**.

***Note:** I will be assigning each Starseeker (each person who enters the contest) to a constellation so that we can keep the competition fair. We wouldn't want a constellation of 30 people against one of 7 people. Family members will always be in the same Constellation. If you have a preference of someone you want to be in a team with or on your team, let me know. I'll do my best to put folks where they want to be.

Step 4: Visit the forum. Meet your Constellation team members and, if you dare, meet the competition. We keep it friendly, but we do compete.

Step 5: Continue completing **Starseeker Tasks**. Then, on the 21st of every month, give your Constellation Leader a complete list of all tasks completed and how many points earned. That's it! Congratulations on becoming a Starseeker. And thank you.

Starseeker Tasks and Cyrium Points

What's Cyrium? Cyrium is a precious metal, the rarest of all precious metals in the realm of Myriad where the seven books of The Dark Sea Annals will take place. By completing any of the following Starseeker Tasks, you will earn Cyrium Points for yourself, as well as for your Constellation Team.

10 Cyrium Points:

- Tweet about *Sword in the Stars* and/or *The Errant King* (or as Status Message on Facebook). This can be done up to 5 times a day, with a minimum of one hour between messages. You must say something different about the books each of the five times.

Accountability: Keep a list of Tweets/Messages.

Max Points Per Person Per Day = 50 points.

- Tweet about any of my other books (or as Status Message on Facebook). This can be done up to 5 times a day, with a minimum of one hour between messages. You must say something different about the books each of the five times.

Accountability: Keep a list of Tweets/Messages.

Max Points Per Person Per Day = 50 points.

- Tweet about *Sword in the Stars* and/or *The Errant King* (or as Status Message on Facebook). This can be done up to 5 times a day, with a minimum of one hour between messages. You must say something different about the books each of the five times.

Accountability: Keep a list of Tweets/Messages.

Max Points Per Person Per Day = 50 points.

- Mention ANY of my books in a blog thread--your blog or someone else's.

Accountability: Keep a list links.

Max Points Per Person Per Day = 100 points.

Wayne's Books include:

- The Door Within
- The Rise of the Wyrms Lord
- The Final Storm
- Isle of Swords
- Isle of Fire

- Curse of the Spider King
- Venom and Song
- Sword in the Stars
- The Errant King

100 Cyrium Points:

- Join the official Starseekers forum (Web Address to be announced later)

Accountability: Constellation Founders, please include the username of each person who joined in your Monthly Cyrium Points Report.

Max Points: 100 for yourself; 100 for any member you persuade to join.

- Join the official Berinfell Prophecies forum called The Underground.

<http://www.heedtheprophecies.com/theunderground/>

Accountability: Constellation Founders, please include the username of each person who joined in your Monthly Cyrium Points Report.

Max Points: 100 for yourself; 100 for any member you persuade to join.

- Do your homework well without having to be told. Have your parent/guardian jot a note to prove it. (You can do this up to 10 times, totaling up to 1000 points for each member of your Constellation Team) *What does this have to do with the books? Er...well, nothing. We just don't want you skipping homework to do these tasks!

200 Cyrium Points:

- Put a banner ad for any of my books up on your site. The ad should link to the Amazon page for my books.

Accountability: give the source code to your Constellation Founder.

Max Points: One ad per book = 1800 points per person max.

- Email a digital photo of you with a store employee in a bookstore where any of my books are shelved. In the photo, I must be able to see the book on the shelf and in your hands. Every photo you send is worth 200 points, but each photo **must be from a different store**, and with each photo, include the name and address of the store as well as the name of the employee. Please let me know if I am allowed to post the photo on the blog. This is repeatable for each of my books.

Because some people live in small towns without any bookstores, I will allow you to ask friends to get photos for you. The friend must be in the photo along with the store employee.

- Create an Amazon Listmania List that includes any of my books. (10 Listmania Limit: 2000pts total per Constellation member)

500 Cyrium Points:

- Write a review of any of my books on Amazon or any of the following online review sites: CBD, Goodreads, Shelfari, ScienceFictionandFantasyWorld.com, Incredibooks, B&N, Borders, BAMB, etc. The review must show that you've read the book. You may post reviews in multiple places (up to 10) for multiple credit. In other words, if you write a review for *The Errant King*, you can post that review 10 different places for a total of 2000 points per member per book reviewed. Include the links for ALL reviews in the Constellation Report.
- Make a poster about *Sword in the Stars* and/or *The Errant King* and put it on a school, church, or store bulletin board. The poster has to be at least eight and a half by eleven inches, which is the sized of standard paper, and it must have an image of the book cover.

Each poster needs to include where a person can purchase the book locally, or if there is no local place to get it, mention that it can be purchased online at Christianbook.com, Amazon.com, or another online bookseller.

A poster is worth 500 points, but you won't get extra points for more than one poster at the same school. You may put the poster up in many different places, but only one credit per establishment. To get credit for a poster, please send me a digital photo of you at the place where you placed it. And please include whether or not I have your permission to post the photo on my blog.—these should be included in the Constellation Report.

- Create Desktop Art (aka Wallpaper) images for my books and offer them to readers somewhere online. 500 points per image; one image per book. Include weblink to images in Constellation Report.

1000 Cyrium Points:

- Watch for Today Only Quests Coming Soon—these are time sensitive tasks will be offered for just a limited time.
- Recommend One of our books to someone. If that person buys it, send me a scanned

photocopy of the receipt by email. The receipt must show the store name and the date, and the date must be on or later than today's date, September 7th, 2009. Include the receipt in your Constellation Report.

- Amazon gives authors the power to create Purchasing Links for their books. I've created links for each of our books. Email Me and request the HTML code for each of my books linking to Amazon. Put this code on your website or blog, creating a sales link to Amazon, and you get 1000 points (max of 1 code link for each book). Please note: this HTML code is directly from Amazon.com. We have them posted on my sites and have had no problems. But I cannot be liable if some virus or wee beastie gets into your site because Amazon's code had it embedded or some such. As always, include the link in your Constellation Report.

- Write AND present a book report on any Wayne Thomas Batson or Christopher Hopper book at school. 500 bonus points if you earn an A+ for that assignment. Scan graded report and include it in Constellation Report.

- Enter my friend D. Barkley Briggs Christmas Contest:
<http://deanbriggs.com/2011/11/05/the-contest-step-by-step-illustrated-instructions/>

2000 Cyrium Points:

- Go to a store that does not carry one of my books and special order it from that store. The receipt must show the store name and the date, and the date must be on or later than today's date, November 26th, 2011. Include the receipt in your Constellation Report.

- Go to a store (or Library) that does not carry one of my books and persuade them to carry any of my books. Include the name of the store and a phone number for the store in your Constellation Report. (This is open ended. As many times as you can)

- Buy any of my books and donate them to your church library. The receipt must show the store name and the date, and the date must be on or later than today's date, November 26th, 2011. Include the receipt in your Constellation Report. Tell us what church received them.

- Make a video supporting *Sword in the Stars* or *The Errant King* and post it on Youtube or Godtube. You can interview people, use music or artwork, or even recruit people to join the contest. If you don't mind, I would like you to include a positive comment or two about the book. Make it imaginative, funny, insightful, anything (within reason) to attract attention. Include the link in your Constellation Report.

Posting a video will be worth 2000 points, but only one video per person per book will count. As the contest draws to a close, we will award an additional 1000 points to the person who makes the best video (in the opinion of the judges).

3000 Cyrium Points:

- Buy *Sword in the Stars* or *The Errant King* from Amazon.com on FRIDAY, December 9th between the hours of 6pm--10pm Eastern Time. Include the receipt in your Constellation Report. Bonus 5000 points for your Constellation if 5 or more Constellation member purchased *Sword in the Stars* or *The Errant King* that day and *Sword in the Stars* or *The Errant King* appears in Amazon's top 100 bestselling books that day!

5000 Cyrium Points:

- Buy *Sword in the Stars* or *The Errant King* from any store or vender. Then, join Bookcrossing.com. Register the book with Bookcrossing. Then, after reading and posting a review, set the book free. See Bookcrossing instructions for more details and **MAKE SURE YOUR PARENT APPROVES!!**

Not only do you get 5000 points for setting a book free, you get an additional 1000 points for every person who gets that same book, reads and reviews it, and then sets it free for someone else. This is repeatable as many times as you want. Additional Bonus of 1000 for each state the book travels into!

COMING SOON: The Astounding **Seek the Stars--and--Stripes Initiative**

COMING SOON: Starting your very own BOOK-RAY

The Amazing Open Category:

- Suppose you have an idea for something that you think will promote one or all of my books, BUT you don't see it posted on my blogs. Email me your idea. If it's good, I'll tell you how many points it's worth—I like to reward creativity! I will then post your idea on our blogs so others can do it too. But you will get more points for your Constellation for being the creative one who came up with the plan. Draw your sword! Schiing!!

Disclaimers and Must Mentions:

Fairplay Pledge: Many of the Cyrium Point Tasks require some kind of proof: a web address, a photo, a receipt--that kind of thing. But many tasks require only your word. We all abide by the honor system. If you claim a task, you definitely completed the task. No shortcuts or cheats.

Mission Pledge: You may not be aware of this, but there's a HUGE mission behind this contest. Maybe you just saw CONTEST and thought, "Cool, I'm in!" But I want you to understand what's behind this. Having books published is a blessing and a dream come true. But it all means nothing if I have no readers. And in this day and age, publishers really don't do much to make our books known to the public. Sure, they get the books in the stores--and that is huge. But they just don't have the budget to advertise. The Seek the Stars contest is an effort to make my new series as well known as possible, to get the readers matched up with a story they will hopefully love. And even deeper still, I owe everything to God. And I do my level best to craft stories that will honor Him and make Him smile. As more people get to know my books, it is my sincerest hope that they will also get a little bit closer to the Starmaker, Himself.

The I'm Old Enough Pledge: You ever go to the amusement park and see a ride that you REALLY wanted to go on, but they had the little Roadrunner or Clown holding up a hand saying, "You must be this tall to ride this ride." I hated that. Specifically, I hated coming up short. lol. I don't want to do that to anyone who wants to enter this contest, but I have to be mindful of your safety. Anyone 13 or older can enter. If you are younger than 13, and your parent will email me to give you permission, you may enter. OR, you can enter as a "Whole Family Starseeker," meaning: mom, dad, bro, sis--you all work together as a team.

Note: Any and all of the requirements are subject to change as the author sees how this develops. I want to keep it fair.

Note: I hope this competition stays loving and friendly. Although I hope you want to win the prizes, I also hope you want to share with others the benefit of reading our books. Since our books don't overtly preach, it's a great opportunity to introduce your friends to a story that will get them asking questions.

Note: The Author reserves the right to change the contest, make exceptions, exercise lapses in judgment, forget stuff, eat too many starchy carbs, and generally make a nuisance of himself throughout.

Constellation Reports: email me a “Constellation Report” every day of the month that is a multiple of Seven. 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, etc. etc.

The Constellation Report includes a list of each member of the Constellation, what they did, and glory points earned. Please total the new points earned. Please include links for anything posted on the Internet. Please include attachments of any receipts, jpegs, etc.

When you email me the Constellation Report, you can make it the text field of the email, attach it as word or pdf. Please put “Constellation Report_Date_ConstellationName” in the subject line of the email.

Founders responsibilities include:

- Earn Cyrium (Contest Points) along with Constellation members
- Communicate with me via email
- Collect and record Cyrium from Constellation members
- Communicate with Constellation members, make sure they are aware of time-sensitive Quests or point-earning-opportunities
- Seek out new members for your Constellation
- Assist in Moderating the Seek the Stars Forum
- Work with your team to develop a Constellation name
- More to come over the course of the contest

All Constellation **Members** have these responsibilities:

- Earn as many Cyrium Points as you can
- Spread the Word about the Dark Sea books
- Abide by the rules of the contest and by author’s decisions
- Join the Seek the Stars Forum