



Topeka Area Catbackers

Letter from the President

Well it's that time of year again where I put down my thoughts about the Topeka Area Catbackers and our Kansas State Wildcats on paper. It always seems to be a challenge for me as I have many thoughts rambling through my head. But for sake of your sanity and the length of this letter I will restrain myself.

I'm very proud to be the President of the Topeka Area Catbackers. It's been a blessing to work alongside other K-Staters in this area and with personnel at the university. I do my best to represent the City of Topeka and the K-State fans. As a leadership group our focus during 2011 has been to create more value for your membership. We have done this by improving historical Catbacker events such as the Golf Tournament and the Family BBQ. More so, our events committee has continued to add more and different events such as watch parties, beer tasting, guest speakers and many others. Again in 2012 we plan to sustain our past activities and try some new things. As a member of the club, if ever a time arises that you have an idea for a fun club event, please contact us and communicate your idea. Our email address is TACatbackers@gmail.com. We would especially welcome your input along with any involvement that you may be able to provide in planning an event. Like any group we have the tendency to overwhelm just a few people. Help is always welcome!



Neal P. Spencer
Topeka Area Catbacker President

A major focus for the club this year is membership recruitment. As I have stated in the past our strength is in our numbers. The larger our club gets the better pull we have with the university. That means better speakers for events, better items for auctions and overall better support from KSU. All of this combined helps to improve your experience as Catbackers and members of the Topeka area community. In an effort to recruit new members and sustain current members we are offering a gift this year for both new and current members that renew. Look for details coming soon on what those gifts will be. Please help us out and pass on the good news about our club. Again, we will only be stronger as our group grows. More information on membership can be found on our website at www.topekaareacatbackers.com

I thank you very much for another great year and look forward to 2012 being even better. Go Cats!

Note: The Topeka Area Catbacker Board wants you to get to know some of the members of our organization so we will feature a member in each issue. If you want to nominate someone to be the featured member, please send the person's name and contact information to Linda Hubbard (lshubbard@cox.net).

Story of Clardy Vinson

Clardy Vinson was a two-time All-American in track at K-State in 1971-72. He won the 880 yard Big Eight Title in 1971 with a time of 1:47.5 which is still 5th in school history. Clardy was also a track star at Topeka high and is a member of the Kansas State High School Activities Association Hall of Fame. He was a member of a distance medley relay team which set a world record at the 1972 Drake relays and was recently named by the Topeka Capital Journal as one of the Top 100 Athletes in Shawnee County. Vinson relates that one of his favorite KSU experiences was “going by Call Hall once a week for ice cream”!

After his education, he taught school in the Topeka 501 District as well as coached track and cross country. He served as principal at the elementary, secondary and high school levels, finishing his career as Principal at Topeka High School for 4 years. He retired 6 years ago and lives in Topeka with his wife, Paula (also an educator). They have two sons, Chris and Craig.

When we asked why he was a Catbacker member, Clardy replied, “I am proud to be a K-Stater and I want people to know that. Joining Catbackers gives me chance to get to know other K-Staters and talk about K-State business.”



Sports Double Header - Catbacker Event

Plan to attend both the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championship and the KSU-KU Baseball Game on Saturday, May 12, 2012.

To attend the pre-game tailgate and 6:30pm evening KSU-KU Baseball game, e-mail Craig Selley at craig.message@gmail.com for your baseball ticket and meal reservation request. Bench tickets for the game are \$3.00 a person. The price of the meal ticket has not been established yet. It should be close to last year's cost of \$6.00 per person.

Big 12 Outdoor Track & Field Championship will be a three day event starting Friday, May 11th and concluding Sunday, May 13th with the finals. Tickets can be purchase on-line, at the KSU Ticket Office or that day at the track championships. A three day track & field ticket is \$20 for adults, \$10 youth and \$10 seniors 65 and older. A single day ticket is \$10 adult, \$5 youth and \$5 for seniors 65 and older.



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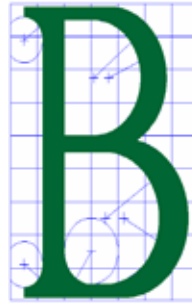
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Topeka Area Catbackers Club Events

- March 15** • NCAA Tournament watch party for all the KSU Basketball games at Jerimiah Bullfrogs. Location – 4115 SW Huntoon
- May 12** • Catbacker Day at KSU vs. KU Baseball Game
Location – Tionton Family Stadium, Manhattan – 6:30pm
(more information inside this newsletter)
- May 18** • Topeka Area Catbackers Golf Tournament / Firekeeper Golf Course
Location – Prairie Band Casino, Mayetta – (see insert for info)
- June 18** • Topeka Area Catbackers Annual Family BBQ / Expo Center

If you have not renewed your membership, this will be your last newsletter.
Please mail renewal form and dues of \$20 to the address listed to the right.

Make checks payable to: **Kansas State Catbackers Inc.**

A membership renewal form can be found on our website:

www.topekaareacatbackers.com

Topeka Area Catbackers

c/o Samantha Samich

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