

Community Comment June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

By Jon Sapper

“I Won!”

I don't play the lottery. I hate to throw my money away. But, I have to admit when the payout gets in the hundreds of millions of dollars, I buy one or two tickets. I remember years ago there was a lotto that got up to \$700 million dollars and I bought a ticket. You had to guess six numbers. I turned on the TV when the ping pong balls were being spun around and falling into the little tray getting ready to be picked up. I was holding my ticket. They drew the first ball. I had it. That's good. They drew the second ball. I had that number, too. Now I'm starting to get excited. They drew the third ball. Three for three. Now my heart is starting to pound. I'm already planning the trips I'm going to take, the house I'm going to buy and the new car that will be in my driveway tomorrow. The fourth ball is drawn. Then the fifth ball. Then the sixth ball..... I didn't have any of 'em. Did I have you going for a minute? Oh well, I won five bucks.

Speaking of bucks, this is the time of year when folks who enjoy deer and elk hunting out-of-state put their name into a drawing for the opportunity to go there and hunt. I applied online for a chance to hunt whitetail deer in Texas. It was sponsored by a large national outdoor store..... You won't believe it. One week later I got a call from Texas. The caller asked if I was Jon Sapper. I said, "Yes, I am". He said, "You put your name in for a whitetail deer hunt in Texas." I answered, "Yes, I did!", elevating my voice with excitement. He said, "Well, that's why I'm calling." I could hardly contain myself and I blurted out, "I won! That's fantastic! Thank you." He said, "Well, the reason I'm calling you is I would like to know if you'd like to buy a magazine subscription?" "Magazine subscription. You aren't calling to tell me I won the drawing?" He said, "I don't know if you won or not. I'm just calling to see if you'd like this great outdoor magazine...and I can get you a very special price for the first year." I said, "I don't want a very special price for the first year. I would like you to find out if I won the drawing for the deer tag?" He said, "I'm sorry, I can't do that, but I can tell you about the magazine. It's really great and if you like the outdoors, you'll love this magazine." I thought to myself, one reason I love the outdoors is because I don't have to interact with people trying to sell me this kind of stuff on the phone all the time. I politely said, "No, thank you," and then I hung up. A week later I received calls from Texas, Arkansas, Washington and Colorado asking me if I wanted to buy this same

magazine. This is crazy! I'm not answering my phone anymore when I see it's from out-of-state and I don't recognize the number.

On second thought, I will answer. I think the next call will be from someone telling me I won the drawing.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.