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New Bern man wins a shot to play poker with the pros

RALEIGH- Robert “Mike” McMinn, a painter from **New Bern**, is headed to Las Vegas next summer to play with the pros in the 2011 World Series of Poker® Main Event Tournament after being selected in the first World Series of Poker® second chance drawing by the N.C. Education Lottery.

McMinn’s name was drawn as the grand prize winner out of 48,236 entries on Aug. 18. The grand prize is a World Series of Poker® trip package for two to Las Vegas. The trip includes four nights and five days deluxe hotel accommodations; round-trip airfare; \$500 spending money; and one \$10,000 entry fee for a seat at the tournament. The grand prize package is valued at \$20,000.

McMinn said he was “dumbfounded” when he learned of his win. His wife will be joining him on the trip to offer support during the tournament. He hasn’t played poker recently, so he plans to enlist the help of a friend who is a “Texas Hold ‘Em fanatic.” McMinn will also utilize a computer program to help simulate odds and different playing styles to get a better feel for what he may face in Las Vegas.

“It’s time to dust off my poker face,” McMinn said.

The World Series of Poker® is a \$5 scratch-off game with a total of four second-chance drawings, so three more players have a chance to win a seat at the tournament. In addition to the grand prize, 225 other player’s names will be drawn to win World Series of Poker® prize packs in each drawing. Non-winning tickets can be entered at the NCEL website. Entries are due by Sept. 22 for the second drawing taking place on Sept. 29.

The scratch off ticket went on sale July 13 and, as of Monday, six of the eight top prizes of \$100,000 remain to be won instantly. For more details on the drawings, rules and prizes for the World Series of Poker® game, log on to the official NCEL website (www.nc-educationlottery.org) and click on the World Series of Poker® icon.

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*North Carolina Education Lottery net proceeds are used for pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk four-year-olds, reduction of class size in early grades, school construction and need-based college scholarships.
For prizes of \$5,000 and greater, 25% federal tax and 7% state tax are automatically withheld.*