



RITTER, REAM, HOA CRACK 'EM AT CAYUGA LAKE, SPONSORED BY TRICKY PHISH BAIT CO.

Seneca Falls, NY

July 15 -16, 2017

Water Temp: 78 | Air Temp: 80 | Partly Cloudy | Wind: Light & Variable

The fish Gods work in mysterious ways. Coming off the water on day 2, eventual Cayuga Lake champion **Ricky Ritter** proclaimed, "That was THE WORST day of fishing of my life, but I have a limit." More on that later.

When the **Hawghunters of Allentown** released its club schedule during the doldrums of winter, many anglers circled the weekend of July 15 - 16 on their calendars. For the second year in a row, HOA hosted its first two-day tournament at the central New York fish factory, with the derby sponsored by **Tricky Phish Bait Co.** And, for the second year in a row, Cayuga did not disappoint.

Back to Ritter. His two-day total of 22.73lbs. bested the field of 13 anglers, earning Ritter his second consecutive win of the 2017 season. His day-two limit was anchored by the weekend's lunker, a 4.93lb. Cayuga toad. But, why was his day so bad?

"I lost four fish that day," he recalled. "Including a four pounder."

Fortunately for Ritter, it didn't cost him in what was the tightest tournament in recent memory. Reigning two-time Co-Angler of the Year, **Mark Ream** captured the win on day 1 with 11.28lbs. Ream squeaked past **Harrison Hunter** who weighed in 11.25lbs., including the day's lunker, a 3.84lb. fatty, and "That Guy" **Mitch Metcalf**, (10.89lbs.) who captured third place. The weights were so close, that HOA weighed in its first tie of 2017. Ritter and **Charlie Harris** both weighed in 10.51lbs., splitting fourth place honors.

Day two belonged to "Big Fish" **Jon Hardenberg** who boasted the best limit of the weekend with 13.66lbs. Ritter remained consistent and improved on his day one catch, weighing in 12.22lbs. Metcalf, (11.65lbs.), Harris (11.03lbs.) and Hunter (10.51lbs.) also stayed on the fish and rounded out the top five. Of the 13 participants, 15 limits were weighed in for the weekend, proving that Cayuga is alive and well. While the weights weren't as heavy as 2016, several boats reported days of 20 plus fish.



Ricky Ritter with two of his fish on Day 2, including tournament lunker, a 4.93lb. Cayuga Lake pig.



Reigning two-time Co-Angler of the Year **Mark Ream** showing off two of his fish that led him to victory on Day 1.



Jon Hardenberg found better fish on Day 2, earning him his first win of 2017.



(CONT.)

HOA's next tournament, at Conowingo Reservoir on August 20, marks the official halfway point of the season. Appropriately for mid-August, the races for Angler of the Year and Co-Angler of the year are heating up. Ritter, in just his third year of competitive fishing, is in contention to win his first Angler of the Year title. However, he'll have to wrestle it away from veterans Mitch Metcalf, Charlie Harris and Jon Hardenberg, all of whom are also at the top of the standings.

The Co-AOY championship is up for grabs as well and is just as close. Ream, searching for his third consecutive title, is being challenged by riders **Evan Rehrig**, **Ed Rosenberger** and **Willie Gilbert**. Both races should make for an exciting end to 2017 with some interesting stops along the way.

Cayuga Lake Results—July 15-16, 2017

Overall Place	Angler	Day 1 Weight Place	Day 2 Weight Place	Total Weight
1	Ricky Ritter	10.51 4	12.22 2	22.73
2	Mitch Metcalf	10.89 3	11.65 3	22.54
3	Jon Hardenberg	8.76	13.66 1	22.42
4	Harrison Hunter	11.25 2	10.51 5	21.76
5	Charlie Harris	10.51 4	11.03 4	21.54
6	Mark Ream	11.28 1	9.1	20.38
7	Evan Rehrig	9.6 6	9.73 6	19.33
8	Gerald Polachak	9.52	8.76	18.28
9	Doug Roat	7.38	6.68	14.06
10	Rudy Pohl	6.63	3.25	9.88
11	Jason Penrose	9.22	0	9.22
12	John Palmer	6.6	2.49	9.09
13	Ed Rosenberger	4.96	3.62	8.58
Total		117.11	102.7	219.81

