



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PAST CHAMPIONS RETURN TO RACE IN 35TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**ESCAPE FROM ALCATRAZ™ TRIATHLON**

*Triathlon Legend Scott Tinley, Michellie Jones, Peter Lewandowsky, Terri Schneider, Lester Waddel Set to Compete*

**SAN FRANCISCO – (June 4, 2015)** Several legends of triathlon are set to race in the 2015 Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon to celebrate the 35th anniversary of this iconic race. Two-time IRONMAN Champion and 1989 Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon Champion Scott Tinley will take to the cold waters of San Francisco Bay alongside a handful of past champions including eight-time Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon Champion Michellie Jones, two-time Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon Champion Peter Lewandowsky, Terri Schneider and Lester Waddel, to once again attempt the impossible – ESCAPE from Alcatraz Island.

Sine the first race in 1981, the mystique of Alcatraz Island and the riskiness of the course, most significantly the open water swim has enticed top professional and amateur triathletes to compete to achieve bragging rights. From 1981 to 1989, the course featured an extremely challenging swim from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco's Aquatic Park; a bike ride over the Golden Gate Bridge to Mill Valley; and a grueling Double Dipsea run to Stinson Beach and back. The race gained notoriety in 1989 when it was televised on NBC for the first time, increasing its popularity as a bucket list race. In 1990, the rugged course evolved to take place entirely in the city of San Francisco to better accommodate the needs of television. Slight adjustments were made from 1990 to 1994, and since 1995, the course has remained the same as it is today.

Showcasing the beauty of San Francisco, 2,000 race participants from around the globe will embark on a 1.5-mile swim from Alcatraz Island to the shoreline of Marina Green, an 18-mile hilly bike ride through the Presidio and an 8-mile trail run out to Baker Beach and up the infamous Sand Ladder.

"This race is near and dear to my heart and I am really excited to return and compete this year," said USAT Hall of Famer and 1989 Escape from Alcatraz Champion Scott Tinley. "The 35-year history of this gritty, fun course is fascinating. I remember when it originally included a bike ride over the Golden Gate Bridge to Mill Valley and a Double Dipsea trail run. It was amazing then and still is today."

Past Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon Champions competing this year include:

- 1984 Champion Lester Waddel (United States of America)
- 1987 and 1988 Champion Peter Lewandowsky (United States of America)
- 1989 Champion Scott Tinley (United States of America)
- 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004 Champion Michellie Jones (Australia)

- 1990 Champion Terri Schneider (United States of America)
- 2006 Champion Matt Reed (United States of America)
- 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012 Champion Leanda Cave (Great Britain)
- 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2014 Champion Andy Potts (United States of America)

Additionally, 2006 Champion Becky Lavelle (United States of America) will be in attendance, but not competing in this year's race.

Participants and spectators are invited to a special meet and greet opportunity with the participating Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon Past Champions on Saturday, June 6, from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., at the Fitness Festival on Marina Green. All past champions will greet fans, sign autographs and pose for photos.

"From 1984 Champion Lester Waddel, to current six-time winner Andy Potts, the mix of past champions and current professionals is sure to create a memorable race," said IMG Senior Vice President James Leitz. "We are thrilled to be able to gather and honor these triathlon legends dating back to the early 80's and to have them all together and available to today's competitors and fans of the sport for this momentous occasion."

Past champions will join current professional triathletes set to compete:

**Men:**

- Josh Amberger (Australia)
- Kevin Collington (United States of America)
- Cameron Dye (United States of America)
- Max Fennell (United States of America)
- Brian Fleischmann (United States of America)
- Ben Hoffman (United States of America)
- Eric Lagerstrom (United States of America)
- Graham O'Grady (New Zealand)
- Andy Potts (United States of America)
- Matt Reed (United States of America)
- Drew Scott (United States of America)

**Women:**

- Mirinda Carfrae (Australia)
- Leanda Cave (Great Britain)
- Emily Cocks (United States of America)
- Jenny Fletcher (United States of America)
- Ashleigh Gentle (Australia)
- Lauren Goss (United States of America)
- Sara McLarty (United States of America)
- Jillian Petersen (United States of America)
- Magali Tisseyre (Canada)

Hosted on [EscapeFromAlcatrazTriathlon.com](http://EscapeFromAlcatrazTriathlon.com), USL.TV will provide live streaming coverage of the entire race and will include expert commentary and insight from nine locations along the race course. USL.TV will utilize its new innovative tracking

technology along with live camera angles, allowing fans the ability to see exactly where their favorite pros are during all three legs of the event.

The race will take place on Sunday, June 7, at 7:30 a.m. Fans will not want to miss this world-class sporting event at the Marina Green where they can see the swim start and finish, the athlete transition areas and finish line. Spectators also are invited to enjoy the free Fitness Festival throughout the weekend featuring dozens of vendors, product demonstrations, refreshments and more. The Fitness Festival will take place on Saturday, June 6, from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. and on Sunday, June 7, from 6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on the Marina Green.

For additional race information and event updates:

[www.escapefromalcatraztriathlon.com](http://www.escapefromalcatraztriathlon.com) • [#escapealcatraztri](https://twitter.com/EscapeAlcatraz)

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