

# Broadcast Sports, Inc: The POV

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*Celebrating 30 Years  
of Wireless Innovation*

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## Nik Wallenda makes history; BSI brings heart-stopping views to millions around the world

Thirteen million people held their breath as tightrope walker Nik Wallenda walked a two-inch wire strung across the Grand Canyon. At heights of 1,500 feet (in comparison, the Empire State building is 1,454 feet tall) he chose to do his walk unsecured, no harness, no net, nothing to break his fall. ABC chose to forgo the broadcast because of his refusal to accept a 'back up plan' and Discovery recorded in a 10 second delay, to 219 countries.



*"It was strenuous the whole way across. It was a battle. The winds were strong, they were gusty," he told reporters. "But there was never a point where I thought, 'oh my gosh, I'm going to fall.'"*  
*-Nik Wallenda*

On a vest borrowed from the ref cam system with modifications done by Jesse Rossmann's daughter, Jessica, Nik wore two BSI 1080i mini POV cameras; one pointing down into the canyon and the other straight ahead.

BSI provided wireless camera links with remote camera control for a Sony P1 Steadicam, a Sony HDC-2500 handheld camera and a Sony P1 horizontal cable camera provided by Sea to Sky Cable. BSI also provided a wireless camera link for a Cineflex HD helicopter camera supplied by Helivision, LLC.

In addition to the wireless camera links, BSI also provided many of the wireless audio and communication components for the broadcast including three BSI MIC1500 wireless microphones, five talent packs and three belt packs plus 100 handheld radios. We provided a high power back-up system for the wireless microphone and wireless IFB communications from NBC that Nik Wallenda wore to keep in contact with his father who is also his safety coordinator. Twice during the walk Nik's father instructed Nik to kneel on the rope to calm the vibrations.

BSI also provided wireless HD program video for the press area, camera operators and a wireless teleprompter feed for the SteadiCam.

All in all, the broadcast was a success, bringing in a peak total of 13 million viewers for Discovery Channel and garnering 1.3 million tweets. It was the network's fourth best Prime Time average and its best night since 2010. For BSI, the PR frenzy surrounding our POV cameras has been unprecedented. We piggybacked on the momentum surrounding the ref cam debut in the WNBA and sent out two press releases on our involvement in the Skywire broadcast – one to trade publications and one to the wire service used by mainstream media. To date, our press release has been picked up by over **4,470** media outlets and counting! We receive inquiries on almost a daily basis about the potential applications of our technology.

*Photo's from the event courtesy of*

*Brandon Patrick*



The 8.5-ton steel cable, 4 football fields long, being strung across the canyon. The cable was strong enough to hold a Boeing jet



Brandon takes a ride in the helicopter to the other side



A seamstress makes the final alterations; the camera is attached to a vest under his shirt



Nik carried a 43 lb balance pole; he fought wind gusts up to 48 mph, a dust film on the wire and in his contacts.



22 minutes and 43 seconds later, victory is declared over the canyon



A much deserved moment to take it all in



Recognition is also due here in the office; the Camera Shop, Machine Shop and Engineering were also greatly involved in making this event such a huge success.

The Crew: Pete Smith, Brandon Patrick, Lou Meyers, Clay Underwood, George Aud & Matt Butler

*An email from NBC Producer Gretchen Eisele to the crews:*

Team Wallenda..... What an epic feat we pulled off in the desert! It all feels a bit like a weird dream now that I am finally home and slightly less sleep deprived. I am so proud of what we did. We could not have had a better team fronting the show than Willie, Natalie and Jim. You guys were not only amazing, you were incredible sports to deal with the punishing hours you had to put in with all of the extra stuff you had to do.

I hope you have all had a chance to bask in the ratings glow in the last 24 hours. THIRTEEN MILLION people tuned in and we were #1 and #2 for the week. Also broke all kinds of social media records. 40,000 tweets per minute. Amazing.

It was truly an incredible team that was assembled and only an incredible team effort could have yielded the result we did.

*(Note: some shout-out's removed due to space restrictions)*

All of the cameramen, sound guys, utility, BSI, and all of the folks in the truck:

We could not have pulled this off without your professionalism and skill. The technical knowhow and expertise you brought is what made that screen come alive. You were always in place at the right time and didn't miss a bit. It was technically flawless. Bravo.