


**The Photographic Society of America – Photo Travel Division  
Digital Study Group 1**

<b>Round:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Maker's Name</b>	<b>Charlie Burke</b>
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<b>Image No:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Image Title:</b>	<b>Arches Scenic</b>	

**DOERRIE COMMENTS AND RATINGS**

**Comments:** Hi Charlie! Isn't Utah just amazing? I fell in love with Red Rock Country when I finally had the chance to go visit a couple years ago.

Regarding this image, it has a lot of impact with the bright reds and blues, and some greens contrasting with the snow on the mountain tops. Your composition also is beautifully balanced.

**Improvements:** The only thing compositionally I find a bit distracting is the tree in the very corner at the bottom right. However, that's being pretty nit-picky on my part. My challenges with this image as a potential salon/competition image are technical. I know it can be very difficult to get good film scans to digital from most processing labs or from a desktop scanner, as I struggle with the same thing. However, I do find the black edges on the top and left somewhat distracting, so I suspect judges will notice those, too. Also, while sharpening likely helped the rocks and mountains, it and the scan have added lots of noise and some dark spots in the sky that are a distraction to me. Although you mention having cropped the image, I'd recommend cropping just slightly more on the top and left to get rid of the distracting very dark edges there, and trying to do some noise reduction on the sky. Is it just me, or does the horizon in this image tilt ever so slightly down toward the right? It can be so hard to tell in places like this where the horizon is not exactly level, so that may be just me. I also wondering if perhaps bit of burning on the shadowed part of the rock pillar would help? I do believe those are "minor" edits that would be doable in a traditional darkroom and thus are allowed in the photo travel division, but please correct me if I am mistaken. (I am still learning PSA definitions and rules.) Overall, though, a beautifully composed image from a great location that I think with a little minor "cleaning up" would work quite well.

**Visual Feedback:** No

**Interest:** Above average      **Technical:** Good      **Composition:** Impressive

**DONG COMMENTS AND RATINGS**

**Comments:** Beautiful image. I like the contrast of the colors.

**Improvements:** bring out more details in the shadows. Camera sensor might need cleaning-up .

**Visual Feedback:** Yes

**Interest:** Above average      **Technical:** Above average      **Composition:** Good

### **RAU COMMENTS AND RATINGS**

**Comments:** A strong image because of the mix of features: the column in the foreground, the line of rocks running (as my eye goes) to the left from that column, and the snow-capped mountains. The trees give a good sense of scale to the column and the entire setting. Good depth of field, with everything in the fore- and middle-ground sharp. The colors and texture of the rock lets me almost feel them. A good image, worthy of exhibiting.

**Improvements:** Given the time of day the image was taken, the loss of detail in the shaded side of the column is understandable, but one improvement might have been tweaking the dark side to see if any detail would emerge. Another improvement would be to tone down the blue in the sky somewhat, but without affecting the tones in the rocks.

**Visual Feedback:** No

**Interest:** Above average

**Technical:** Above average

**Composition:** Above average

### **SUKUMAR COMMENTS AND RATINGS**

**Comments:** Including the snow-capped mountains in the background is very effective at conveying the massive scale of the foreground rock structure (hoodoo?) and the contrasts of elevation and temperature. I'd like to be able to see some detail in the shadows, but that's probably too much to ask of slide film.

**Improvements:** A few dust spots should be removed (is it permissible to clone these out?) and the uneven edges of the frame should be fixed.

**Visual Feedback:** No

**Interest:** Good

**Technical:** Good

**Composition:** Above average

**Image No:**

**2**

**Image Title:**

**Zion Scenic #3**



### **DOERRIE COMMENTS AND RATINGS**

**Comments:** I'm jealous of your luck in getting these great clouds in the picture! Your use of the polarizer really makes them stand out well, although for me, the amount of polarization on the blue part of the sky is just a little stronger than is my personal preference. This is another image where the strong colors add lots of impact, though. The mix of sunlight and shadow also is interesting.

**Improvements:** I am somewhat distracted by the two trees in the foreground, especially the one that is in the bottom center of the photograph. Of course, the only thing you possibly could have done about that would have been to walk to where you had a different perspective. That may not have been very possible, though. I don't know if seeing the full base of that tree would distract me any less or not. I'm also trying to decide whether all that sky and the guy standing on the left side of the photo really add much or not. I've play with recropping this a bit in the visual feedback and think I do like it a bit better, although I'm having trouble deciding. The pixilation in the sky does not seem nearly as overwhelming in this image to me as it did in the last one (although there is a bit still noticeably there). I'm not sure if that was due to a better scan, or if you did some noise reduction or smoothing work. Whatever the explanation, it was less distracting, although I did do noise reduction on a sky selection in my visual feedback image to see if I could get rid of most of what noise was noticeably there. This is a pleasant image of Utah (Zion?); however, I think your other one is the stronger of the two compositionally.

**Visual Feedback:** No

**Interest:** Above average

**Technical:** Good

**Composition:** Good

### **DONG COMMENTS AND RATINGS**

**Comments:** I like the composition, the contrast between dark blue sky and white clouds. It is not easy to take photos in such strong light but you did well.

**Improvements:** Consider crop of 1/7 from the top. This image need a center of interests.

**Visual Feedback:** Yes

**Interest:** Good

**Technical:** Above average

**Composition:** Above average

### **RAU COMMENTS AND RATINGS**

**Comments:** A stunning image, with strong diagonal lines, from bottom to top—the lines draw the eye along the image to see the various elements—the colors, patterns, and texture of the stone. Good depth-of-field, so everything is sharp. The butte in the far landscape, on the left, draws my eye, also, so I get to work the entire image.

**Improvements:** To keep the focus on the rock, I suggest removing the two humans in the image. Sometimes, people add a sense of scale, but in this case they draw my eye away from the natural landscape. Also, I think the image can be improved by toning down the blue of the sky—for me, it is too strong, although I realize that western US skies can be deeply and dramatically blue. I think the image is worthy of exhibiting, with consideration given to the two suggestions I've made.

**Visual Feedback:** No

**Interest:** Above average

**Technical:** Above average

**Composition:** Above average

### **SUKUMAR COMMENTS AND RATINGS**

**Comments:** Nice scenic and colors. The people walking by the side of the road detract from the image for me. They are not necessary to convey a sense of scale because the road and the trees do that, and they do not add human interest because it is difficult to see what they are up to.

**Visual Feedback:** No

**Interest:** Good

**Technical:** Good

**Composition:** Good