



*This review was intended for the November 2022 issue of beave**RT**ales. Unfortunately, we only realized later that it hadn't been included. As we want to keep the review timely, we decided to send it out now as a special supplement.*

## Evolution of the Snowbirds

An illustrated history of all the colour schemes and marking variations, 1971-2021

—By Gary Siddall—

review by Kerry Traynor

I purchased this book as I have always enjoyed watching their air displays at air shows, and I have an interest in the CT-114 Tutor.

Evolution of the Snowbirds is not an in-depth history of the RCAF 431 Air Demonstration Squadron. Rather, the focus of the book is on the aircraft markings and colour schemes between the years 1971 and 2021.

The author, Gary Siddall, is a modeller hailing from the UK and is the Leader of the Aerobatic Display Teams Special Interest Group of IPMS UK. Mr. Siddall has produced a similar book on the RAF Red arrows Air Demonstration Team. Mr. Siddall draws on numerous reference sources for putting together this book including previously published works, the Snowbirds team itself and several modellers who have what I consider a more than passing interest in the Snowbirds as well as retired air force personnel who were at one time a part of 431 Air Demonstration Squadron.

The book is in the A4 format (210mm x 300mm) and is 27 pages in length. The content is predominantly high quality 2 and 3-DI computer graphics, with detailed information regarding the colours and markings of the aircraft. There is also a page of cockpit detail photos. Both the graphics and the photos are all in colour with a sharp and clear quality.

Much of the book, not surprisingly, is spent on the development of the Snowbird markings over the

years. The author does a very good job on illustrating and describing the changes in the markings. The book then moves to sections covering special schemes (for example, the D-Day Anniversary), special markings (such as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RCAF) and

a section on the Tail fin markings over the years. I was surprised at how many special commemorative tail fin markings there were. The book also includes a section covering the cockpit in some detail and a graphic 'walk around' illustrating the unique parts of the Snowbird CT-114 Tutor.

The last section of the book covers the T-33 Silver Stars that the Snowbirds used as Advanced Liaison aircraft between 1972 and 1976. Again, excellent graphic information with detailed captions.

I have to say when that when I first saw the promotions for this book I thought, "Great, another picture book on the Snowbirds". But on seeing a copy at a recent model show, I was duly impressed. This is NOT just another picture book of the Snowbirds. This is a well researched and worthy reference book for anyone who has an interest in building a model of a Snowbirds Tutor or T-33, or you just have an interest in the Snowbirds Air Demonstration Squadron.

Highly recommended.

*Reviewer's Note: There is no information provided in the book as to publication. Therefore, I am assuming it was self published.*

