

## Time Flies

By Mark Caldwell

Haven't each one of us said something along the lines of, "Boy, time sure flies..."? Well, it's true and it has happened again. Here we are at the beginning of April; winter has come and gone and it seems like it was just a couple of days ago that I was out riding. But was it? Stop for a minute and calculate for yourself, just how long **HAS** it been since you last rode your motorcycle? I mean **really** rode the bike, not just started the motor, or took it for a spin around the block, but you were on it for no less than 30 minutes nonstop. Sure, some of you ride year-round and this doesn't apply to you. But many of us either put the bike away for the winter, or we think we will ride it more but we just never quite get around to it. I'm in that last category. I realized the other day that it has been somewhere around **six months** since I last rode. Ouch!

By the time you read this article, the first big event of the year, Chapter C's Early Spring Fun Run will have come and gone, hopefully without incident. If it has been a long time since you last rode, I strongly encourage you to get out there and **practice**. Yes, **PRACTICE**. Your safety, the safety of your passenger and of others around you is dependent on your ability to ride without having to think too much about it. And if you haven't ridden in over a month, you have lost your edge. You no longer have the "feel" of your bike. And you are now dangerous. So take the time to get out there and practice in a nice wide open area. Get the feel of the throttle and clutch again. Get the feel of push-steering again. Get the feel of looking in the direction you want to go again. Refresh your instincts so that when the time comes, you make the right moves, ride safe and come back to us again.