

Features galore on LG Shine offset by tough keypad

When I first picked up the LG Shine, I nearly dropped it. So many of the cellphones – excuse me, wireless devices – I review seem so fragile that I'm afraid to grip them too tightly for fear I'll mess them up. But the "Shine" is called that for good reason, as its metallic surface shines – and is slippery.

That's not a reason to "drop" this phone from consideration. As rough as I am on phones, it's good to have a solid device. The Shine still only weighs a little more than 4 ounces.

Like most wireless devices these days, the Shine can store and play music and videos. It has Bluetooth stereo headset support for music – which is good, because you don't want to listen to tunes through any cell-phone's speaker. Of course you can send and receive text messages and receive e-mail.

Want to share video in a call? This phone can handle that, too. Speaking of video, it has a 2-megapixel camera that shoots still photos and video. Snapshots with this almost pleased me, and I'm used to a 10-megapixel camera. The video, however, is just adequate for YouTube use.

The Shine has the now typical microSD memory card slot (up to 4GB) that will be essential to anyone using the device as their personal music player or taking lots of photos or video.

What I had troubles with were the keys and the "joystick." It was tough to enter numbers without either "doubling" them. And when I eased up on the pressure, I'd be "skipping" a number even though it felt as if I had pushed it down. I



also had trouble adjusting to the joystick. I was always either scrolling past the menu item I wanted, or accidentally pushing down too soon, activating the wrong feature.

But the Shine does have some features that make these shortcomings less of a problem. Voice commands are easily added. And if you have your contacts loaded into the Shine from your desktop's address book, it's very easy to use those commands to make a call. Coupled with the speakerphone or a Bluetooth headset, it's the only way to use this phone in a car or while you are walking.

Opening this slide phone up can feel like it's a two-handed task. Once I got over putting fingerprints on the screen, it was a very solid action.

Good points:

- Solid feel
- High quality images (for a cellphone)
- Excellent sound quality for calls
- Access to all of AT&T's multimedia services, including music, TV, "satellite" radio, videos and more.

• Mobile banking (see sidebar)

Not so good points:

AT&T customers bank on phones

Customers of AT&T can use Mobile Banking to handle their accounts from their wireless device, such as the LG Shine reviewed in this issue. The application is free and no monthly service fees are charged. Data usage charges do apply, making service plans with unlimited data usage better buys.

With Mobile Banking, customers can:

- Check account balances.
- Securely transfer funds between eligible accounts.
- View and pay bills.
- Review transaction history.

Mobile Banking also access to multiple banks, accounts and financial services within one application, according to AT&T.

Participating banks include: BancorSouth, Wachovia, Synovus, FirstBank and SunTrust. Other banks being added include Regions, America First Credit Union, Arvest and USAA.

- This unit would turn off on occasion (especially if it was in my pocket), forcing me to take the back off and re-seat the battery.
- Keys were too finicky on this unit.
- My hair got caught along the edge of the phone. Once I got a haircut, I had no problems. But without Bluetooth, this could be a problem for anyone with longer hair. (That sounds minor until you rip out a few hairs pulling the phone away from your ear.)



BUSINESS BRIEFS

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Lee heads Sipcam, ADVAN as CEO

Roswell agrochemical companies Sipcam Agro USA and ADVAN appointed Andy D. Lee as their CEO.

Prior to his appointment as CEO, Lee was director of the U.S. Crop Protection Business for BASF Corporation, Research Triangle Park, N.C.



LEE

Spain team named to 'Real Estate Top 200'

Mark Spain, head of the Mark Spain Team with RE/MAX Greater Atlanta, was named one of America's top real estate professional teams by The Wall Street Journal, REAL Trends and lore

Magazine. He and his team are now members of "The Real Estate Top 200," a prestigious national awards ranking sponsored annually by these three publications.



SPAIN

Howard Capital earns blue ribbon honors

Howard Capital Management, an Roswell-based capital management firm, received two blue ribbon honors from Theta Investment Research for their high-performing Exchange Traded Funds, according to Vance Howard, company president.

The award is presented to money managers nationwide whose unique fund models earned a significant return on investment. Howard Capital Management's



HOWARD

proprietary funds ROI for EFT2 and EFT3 was 35.51 percent and 32.1 percent respectively.

Blakley heads BB&T's North Atlanta Region

BB&T Corp. named Bobby Blakley as president of its Buckhead-based North Atlanta Region and Derek Lane as president of its Peachtree City-based South Atlanta Region.

Blakley, who joined BB&T in 1988, has served as president of the South Atlanta Region since 2005.

BB&T also announced that Tom Findlay will succeed Lane as senior credit officer for BB&T's metro Atlanta area.

Westport Group earns awards

Westport Group, known as WPG by its clients, has taken home awards from professional trade groups and business groups such as the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

The Alpharetta B2B ad agency earned two silvers in the 2007 Davey Awards, three awards of

Distinction in the 14th annual Communicators Awards program, and one platinum and two gold in the MarCom Creative Awards. Co-owner David Andrews was named Volunteer of the Year at the chamber's annual gala also.



ANDREWS

Dine Out April 23 to help Open Hand

Cotton States Insurance sponsors Dining Out for Life April 23, a benefit for Open Hand, which provides home-delivered meals to senior citizens and individuals with chronic and debilitating diseases.

Participating restaurants in the Atlanta metro area will donate a minimum of 20 percent of food and beverage sales that day.

Restaurants include Casa Nuova in Alpharetta, VIII fifty Restaurant and Lounge in Roswell and Sia's in Duluth.

For a complete list, visit www.projectopenhand.org.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

7:30-9 a.m. **Success Lives Here, Tom Martin, Gwinnett Community Bank.** TPC Sugarloaf Country Club, 2595 Sugarloaf Club Drive, Duluth. Scott Burkholder, 678-584-2270, sburkholder@gwinnettchamber.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

7:30-9 a.m. **Gwinnett Technology Forum,** Gwinnett Technical College, The Busbee Center, Lawrenceville.
4-5 p.m. **Public Policy Development Committee,** Cumming-Forsyth Chamber Board Room. Explore policies and guidelines around green building initiatives, mapping options for the business community before government mandates. No reservation necessary.

5:30-7:30 p.m. **Special After Hours with Johns Creek Business Association.** Network on the rooftop of Garrison's and make new business connections at Garrison's Broiler & Tap, 9700 Medlock Bridge Road Johns Creek. 770-476-1962 or www.gnfcc.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

9:30-10:30 a.m. **Networking.** Abbotts Bar & Grill, 10900 Medlock Bridge Road, Johns Creek. www.johnscreekchamber.com

6-8:30 p.m. Free QuickBooks Training

Workshops by the U.S. SBA. SBA Georgia District Office, 233 Peachtree St. NE, Room 1900 in Harris Tower, Atlanta, April 16, April 23, and April 30. Take MARTA to the Peachtree Center Station in downtown Atlanta. www.sba.gov/ga

6:30-8:30 p.m. **Blueprint North Fulton.** North Fulton Community Improvement District meets on three growth areas: Windward Parkway, Old Milton/Haynes Bridge area and North Point Mall/Mansell Road area. Atlanta Marriott Alpharetta, 5750 Windward Pkwy., Alpharetta. jcrawford@gnfcc.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

7:30 a.m. **Johns Creek Network Alliance.** Hyatt Place - Johns Creek, 11505 Medlock Bridge Road. 770-622-5858.

7:30-9 a.m. **Network Gwinnett - Leads Generation Group.** 6500 Sugarloaf Pkwy., Duluth. 770-232-1273, angelia@gwinnettchamber.org. Noon-1:30 p.m.,

Environmental Jeopardy - Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting, EBC Office and Conference Center, 11330 Lakefield Drive. Environmental displays open: 11:00 a.m. — noon, 1:15-1:45 p.m. www.johnscreekchamber.com.