



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Roosevelt Lake: Monsoon-Edge Storms, Cooler Tuesdays & Clear Wednesday Points

Roosevelt Lake · Tonto Basin, AZ Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 bank / kayak / boat

Highs ~81° Mon → ~75° Tue → ~80° Wed (NWS PSR) AZ clocks · storm chances Mon–Tue

SRP boards thin at evening pull Soft recreational · no named trail event pulled

Roosevelt still has one foot in monsoon season — Monday and Tuesday keep shower and thunderstorm chances, then Wednesday opens into a sunny 80° reset. Pack a rain shell for the midweek cells, and let the first clean point after a storm tell you where the shad pushed.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Phoenix (PSR) band pin for **middle** paints this Friday–Sunday **Cast** window. At pull: Mostly clear, with a low around 73. East wind around 6... Local clocks on this water run Arizona (no DST) — dawn windows shift with the angler.

FRIDAY OCT 2

99°F sunny · night ~73°F mostly clear.
Winds 0 to 9 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

SATURDAY OCT 3

99°F sunny · night ~72°F mostly clear.
Winds 2 to 6 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

SUNDAY OCT 4

98°F sunny · night ~75°F mostly clear.
Winds 5 to 14 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

Mostly fair pattern favors **dawn and dusk**.
Midday fish slide deeper or under shade unless current or wind moves bait. Period themes this pull: Mostly Clear / Sunny.

Day cards from the locked weather-band representative pin (middle), pulled Friday morning for the Fri–Sun window. Check live dam boards before you idle over a seam.

For the Friday–Sunday window, treat Roosevelt as a three-act lake: shallow cover at gray light, windblown main-lake structure mid-morning, then deep brush and channel swings once the sun is high. A white or chartreuse spinnerbait covers the first two acts; a green-pumpkin jig or dropshot owns the third. If thunderstorms are in the Phoenix grid, fish the lulls hard and reset after each cell rather than forcing open water in the wind.

Pressure and sun angle still steer the Salt River arm bite on Roosevelt this weekend. Work the main-lake points at first light with a walking bait or buzzbait, then slide onto 15–25 ft brush and rock transitions as the Arizona sun climbs. If a lake breeze builds out of the southwest, fish the windblown banks with a spinnerbait or crank before noon, then slow down with a dropshot or shaky head on deep trees. Keep a frog ready for flooded brush in the backs when cloud cover thickens. Night bite stays honest on the same points — a black buzzbait or soft swimbait covers water when day traffic fades.

Also watch the Tonto Creek and Salome arm transitions for bait balls after a warm afternoon; a small swimbait or spy bait matches shad when birds work. Pack water and sun cover — AZ October afternoons still cook even when nights cool into the 60s.

● GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Salt River Project / Roosevelt Dam generation and release boards were **not confirmed as a full Fri–Sun unit calendar at pull**. Confirm SRP / CAP public lake and release pages before you idle near dam-end structure.

REACH	FRI–SUN NOTE	FAILOVER
Roosevelt main lake	USGS Salt River near Roosevelt (09498500) showed ~389 cfs / ~6.74 ft gage at evening pull — useful river-context only, not a substitute for dam unit schedules. Elevation and ramp usability still rule the day.	SRP lake / dam pages · USFS Tonto Basin recreation notices · marina board
Dam-end / restricted water	Boards thin for unit timing. Soft language only: if water is moving at the dam face, fish legal points and brush well outside restricted lines.	On-water observation · posted USFS/SRP signs · never enter boil zones
Creek arms (Tonto / Salt)	Storm runoff Tuesday can stain arms overnight. Fish the stain line Wednesday morning if the main lake cleans faster.	Visual clarity checks at the ramp · graph bait height

Soft bite notes with quiet releases: points, brush piles, and docks early; deeper brush and ledges mid-day. If releases pulse, look for bait stacked on the first legal current break — still outside every restricted line. Drought and elevation swings have been an Arizona story in recent seasons; confirm ramp depth before you back a deep-V.

Practical pre-launch check: elevation vs last trip, ramp status on recreation.gov / USFS notices, and a glance at any SRP release remark. Birds and bait on the graph beat an empty calendar.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Primary public bank access runs through **USFS Tonto Basin** recreation sites along SR 188 near Roosevelt Lake Marina — day-use fees and parking rules verify live on FS / recreation.gov before you walk in. Work riprap, brush lines, and shaded docks within a short walk of the marina corridor at first light.

Shared: hydrate hard; Monday–Tuesday storm cells can shut a bank session down fast. Stay out of dam-restricted zones and private marina slips.

Afternoon sun on open riprap is brutal even at 80°F — fish shade or quit to the truck.

KAYAK

Launch from public ramps in the marina / Windy Hill corridor when open; confirm ramp and parking vs lake elevation before you strap the boat. Fish creek arms and brushy pockets away from main-lake ski traffic after mid-morning.

Afternoon wind on the main body can end a kayak day early — have a bailout shoreline. PFD on, whistle, and a sun kit every trip. Storm days: stay off open fetches when cells are building west of the basin.

BOAT

Plan: **first light--~9 AM AZ** on main-lake points and brush for school flushes and topwater; late morning shift to docks, brush piles, and shade; mid-day deeper points and ledges with electronics. Launch early at Roosevelt Lake Marina / USFS ramps.

Soft current language only when SRP is moving water near legal dam-end structure — never fish restricted turbine water. Soft recreational pressure midweek; still expect marina traffic on the sunny

Wednesday. Electronics tip: mark bait height on a known point at dawn before the first cast — if shad are up, start walking baits; if they are down on the break, go jigs and Carolina rigs first.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait in bone / sexy shad at dawn on main-lake points. Poppers over brush when the surface is slick Wednesday. Buzzbait black/blue along storm-stained arm edges after Tuesday cells.

MID

Spinnerbait white/chartreuse on windy points. Squarebill citrus on riprap and marina rock. Soft swimbait on a jighead for suspended fish over deeper brush when the sun is high.

BOTTOM

Green pumpkin creature Texas-rigged in brush. Brown/orange football jig on point drops. Carolina-rigged lizard when fish slide out after the morning flurry.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Late September at Roosevelt is a **post-summer / monsoon-edge transition**. Largemouth still school on shad around main-lake points and relate to brush and docks; they have not locked into a deep winter pattern. Cooler storm days can pull fish shallow all morning; the sunny rebound puts them back on shade and deeper brush by late morning. Handle fish quickly in warm afternoon water.

Spawning is long finished. You are fishing feed and comfort — storm edges and bait flushes early in the week, then cleaner-water point fishing by Wednesday if the basin gets a rinse and a reset.

Smallmouth and largemouth both show on Roosevelt depending on the pocket; fish the bait you see rather than forcing a species story. In stained arms after storms, a darker jig or creature often out-produces a chrome walker until the water cleans. On the clear main-lake points Wednesday, reverse that — match the shad first.

● FORAGE THIS WEEK

Most likely menu: **threadfin shad** on main-lake points and creek mouths, with bluegill and sunfish around docks and brush. Hatch reports are thin. Match what you see on the graph and what birds are working. After Tuesday storms, expect a short window where stained water pushes bait (and bass) tighter to the first clean edge.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Crappie: brush piles and marina docks — minnows/jigs early and late. **Catfish:** cut bait on deeper channel swings and main-lake holes on warm nights. **Carp / panfish:** bank-friendly around recreation sites when the bass bite pauses mid-day.

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: No named national trail event pulled for Roosevelt Mon Sep 28 – Wed Sep 30. Soft midweek recreational pressure; marina and USFS day-use traffic rises on the sunny Wednesday. Regs: Arizona Game and Fish freshwater limits (confirm live). Dam-restricted water is closed — always.

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): If monsoon energy fades into a clearer early-October pattern, expect stronger dawn topwater and more predictable point fishing. Keep watching elevation and ramp notices — Roosevelt access swings with pool. Early October weekends bring more recreational traffic to Tonto Basin; midweek still fishes quieter if you can flex the calendar. Next

Cast: Friday window Fri–Sun.

One more practical note for the looking-ahead stretch: if a stronger Pacific trough finally replaces monsoon leftovers, the first cool night after a hot week is often the best topwater morning of the month. Until that arrives, fish this week's storm edges and Wednesday's clean points one day at a time.

Pure-Gas.org E0 · this water

Closest Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free listings previously identified for the Roosevelt / Tonto Basin run (saved list — stations only; metro distance is real; confirm E0 grade at the pump):

- **Pilot Travel Center** — 17405 S 40th St, Phoenix AZ 85048 · ~45–60 mi toward metro · verify E0 grade on site
- **The Thumb** — 9393 E Bell Rd, Scottsdale AZ · metro NE racing/classic fuel · call ahead; verify E0 grade

Nearby ethanol-free (E0) stations from Pure-Gas.org for this water. No pump prices published on purpose. Marina fuel near the lake is often not E0 — ask before you fill.

SOURCES

NWS Phoenix / Roosevelt corridor (Friday morning AZ pull) · USGS Salt River near Roosevelt 09498500 · SRP / USFS lake and recreation pages (generation calendars thin at pull) · Pure-Gas.org station list (reuse) · AZGFD regs (live) · Trail calendars skimmed (no named event confirmed for this window).