



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST

John Martin: Stormy Midweek, Plains Wind & Largemouth Lead

John Martin Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times in MT

Mild weekend · Fri ~70° → Sat–Sun ~76–74° MT

Primary: largemouth bass

Verify dam boards before you go

Soft Friday recreational · no named trail event pulled

John Martin's midweek heats Monday then turns stormy — pack a shell, fish the first light on riprap, and let the wind and graph pick your bank between cells.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

National Weather Service Pueblo's point forecast for John Martin Reservoir frames a dry, mild weekend for the **Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026** window. Read every clock in this Cast as **MT**. Friday opens near **70°F** after overnight air near **46°F** (sunny, 0 to 15 mph E). Saturday climbs to about **76°F / 46°F** (sunny, 5 mph S). Sunday holds near **74°F / 52°F** (sunny, 5 to 15 mph ENE). No active watches or warnings were highlighted for this pull. Barometer was not logged station-by-station on every arm; treat pressure as steady-fair under this quiet pattern.

For **largemouth bass**, that pattern favors fishing hard around storm edges rather than waiting for a bluebird day. **First light and the hour after a cell clears** are the primary windows when thunder is not overhead. Midday plans should stay flexible — duck into a protected pocket or the truck when radar lights up. Friday is the softer traffic day; Saturday and Sunday recreational pressure builds around popular ramps, and **no named national trail event was pulled** for this water on Oct 2–4.

Carry more layers than you think you need — highs fall through the midweek on many Front Range and plains waters, and wet wind feels colder than the number on the phone. A simple three-rod rotation covers almost every bank you will fish. When a pocket goes quiet, make one short move to the next point that shows bait on the graph rather than a long empty run.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~70°F

Low ~46° · dry · 0 to 15
mph E

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:48 AM · Sunset

~6:32 PM MT

*Best bite: first light—~10 AM;
softest weekend traffic*

SATURDAY OCT 3

~76°F

Low ~46° · dry · 5 mph S
Sunny

Sunrise ~6:49 AM · Sunset

~6:30 PM MT

*Best bite: first light—~10 AM;
shade and structure after 11
AM*

SUNDAY OCT 4

~74°F

Low ~52° · dry · 5 to 15
mph ENE

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:50 AM · Sunset

~6:29 PM MT

*Best bite: dawn edges; mid-
day slow under cover*

● LEVEL & FLOW CHEAT SHEET

USACE John Martin / CPW recreation notices pages are the live source for pool and park notices on John Martin. Fixed Fri–Sun recreational generator calendars are often thin for Colorado reservoirs — treat any elevation, release, or advisory as live. Failover: check the agency and park page the morning you launch, and call the marina or park desk if you need a same-day condition read. Advisories can change without notice.

WATER	OBSERVED	FLOW / BOARDS	HOW TO FISH IT
John Martin Dam / pool	Verify live USACE / CPW pool and park notices before you launch	No fixed Fri–Sun recreational release calendar pulled	Fish riprap and wind seams; treat any flow change as a live check, not a schedule

Dam and restricted zones stay off-limits whether flows are quiet or moving. If a local advisory, fire restriction, or temporary closure appears on the park or agency page, that overrides any general weekend outlook here.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Public shoreline near recreation nodes and dam-area day-use puts riprap, points, and flats in casting range. Fan-cast first light with a spinnerbait or soft plastic along riprap, then slow down with a Texas-rig once the sun climbs. Stay on posted public access, give swim areas room, and skip closed banks. If afternoon storms or wind own the main body, fish the protected public stretch you can reach on foot rather than fighting whitecaps from shore. Carry a small rain shell on the hike — showers can arrive faster than the walk back to the truck — and keep casts tight to the first break when wind turns a bank on.

KAYAK

Launch early and stay inside a protected pocket or the nearest wind-friendly bank when plains breeze and storms build. Wear a PFD — John Martin's open water can get rough fast. Keep a spinnerbait, a soft plastic, and a Texas-rig ready. Fish baited riprap thoroughly between cells instead of paddling a huge empty loop across the main body. If a cell builds while you are mid-lake, turn toward the nearest protected shoreline early rather than finishing "one more cast" under dark sky.

BOAT

Recreation ramps put you on riprap, points, and creek arms quickly. Start shallow at dawn with a spinnerbait or chatterbait on any baited or blown bank, then rotate to jigs and Texas-rigs on shade and riprap. Midday, fish protected water rather than fighting storms or whitecaps. Keep a spotter when running, honor dam restricted zones, and clear open water early if lightning is close. A short, safe sector plan beats a heroic long run under dark sky. Keep a simple run plan on the graph: launch, fish the nearest baited structure, then expand only if marks stay empty.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Closest public **ethanol-free (E0)** listings from Pure-Gas.org near John Martin. Listings can change — confirm the E0 grade at the pump if that matters for your motor. No pump prices in this Cast.

- Valley Tire Of La Junta — La Junta, CO · ~34.7 mi · UNBRANDED · E0 octane 91 · 719-384-5497
- Murphy Express #8984 — Colorado Springs, CO · ~58.5 mi · MURPHY · E0 octane 85 · 719-467-9921
- Quiktrip Store #4297 — Colorado Springs, CO · ~58.5 mi · QUIKTRIP · E0 octane 91 · 719-551-4382
- Dino Mart — Pueblo, CO · ~86.0 mi · SINCLAIR · E0 octane 91 · 719-948-4537

Call ahead when you can — E0 availability changes. Distances are rough estimates to this water.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait and buzzbait on calm points at dawn when storms allow.

MID

Spinnerbait or chatterbait on the blown bank; soft plastic on riprap and docks.

BOTTOM

Texas-rig, compact jig, and drop-shot for midday shade and the break.

Match size to **shad, bluegill, and crawfish along riprap and flats**. Size down when fish short-strike; size up when you mark bigger bait. Primary species this week is **largemouth bass**.

● LARGEMOUTH BASS LIFE STAGE

Spawn is long over. This midweek window is about **post-summer largemouth** on riprap, flats, and wind seams. Storm edges can help when lightning is not overhead. Match the bait you mark.

What's on the menu: shad, bluegill, and crawfish along riprap and flats are the most likely menu this week. Public hatch reports are often thin — lead with the forage above, and match the bait you mark on the graph or see dimpling on the surface.

Watch for bait dimpling on calm mornings and for birds working a point or riprap seam. Those clues beat a generic deep-only rule this week. If fish short-strike, downsize before you abandon the spot; if they flash and leave, try one size larger or a different profile on the next cast.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Wipers, walleye, and catfish show when bait balls stack. Lead with largemouth for this Cast.

● PRESSURE, CLARITY & BITE WINDOWS

Clarity swings with wind and showers — a stained bank can sit next to clearer main-lake rock. Start with natural colors in clearer water and switch to a darker, slower profile when a pocket muddies. Decision tree for this midweek: **low light / storm edge** = points and riprap with a search bait; **stable cloud** = slower bottom baits on the break; **lightning** = off the water, no debate.

Weekday recreation is softer than weekend traffic — launch early, fish the plan, and treat crowd pressure as soft weekday recreation unless a named event shows on the calendar.

Heavy Traffic: no named trail event pulled for Mon–Wed on this water. Soft Friday recreational; Saturday–Sunday builds at popular ramps only.

● PLAINS STORM-WINDOW GAME PLAN

Monday may feel milder before Tuesday–Wednesday storms ramp up. Use the calmer morning hard, then build Tuesday and Wednesday around radar. Keep runs short and fish riprap you can reach quickly when cells stack.

Keep notes on which bank produced and what the graph showed — early-fall patterns often repeat the next morning if nights stay cool and the wind direction holds. If Wednesday's storms arrive early, shorten the open-water window and commit to closer structure sooner.

● ACCESS NOTES & SAFETY

Regs change by water and season. Use the live CPW licensing and regulation pages for bag limits and gear rules before you fish. Plains wind and USACE notices matter — check forecasts and park pages before you go. Wear a PFD when the boat is on plane, keep a spotter in busy lanes,

and give swimming beaches room. If lightning builds, get off exposed water early.

Trailer lights, spare PFDs, and a basic tool kit belong in the truck on any midweek hop — small failures cost more fishing time than almost any lure change. Tell someone your launch and return window when you fish alone, and leave with enough daylight for the drive if Wednesday storms run long.

● GEAR & PACING NOTES

On a wet Colorado midweek, pace matters more than covering every mile of shoreline. Fish a productive bank thoroughly, then make one deliberate move to the next point that shows bait on the graph. Keep rain shells, spare socks, and a dry bag in the truck so a soaking cell does not end the day. A calm, safe plan between storms beats a rushed lake-wide tour under lightning risk.

Match lure size to the bait you mark after each shower — cold rain can shrink the bite for an hour, then turn it back on along the same seam. If Wednesday's coverage stays high, shorten the open-water plan and commit to structure you can reach quickly from the ramp.

● LOOKING AHEAD

Next 1–3 weeks: watch the first true cool, stable autumn stretch and any weekend tournament calendars that would stack Heavy Traffic on John Martin. As nights keep dropping, expect largemouth bass to spend more of the morning on bait and edges. Confirm mussel rules, park hours, and storm patterns as the calendar flips.

● SOURCES

NWS Pueblo point forecast · USACE John Martin / CPW recreation notices · Pure-Gas.org E0 listings. Elevations, advisories, and station lists change — verify dam boards and pump grade before you go.