

Dr. Art Stanger, DMD

PROSTHODONTIST; BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

"Now boarding Southwest Airlines flight 121 with nonstop service from Ft. Lauderdale to Orlando." These words are music to Dr. Art Stanger's ears on Thursday afternoons. That's when he lays down his dental tools—during the week, you might find him working on a dental implant reconstruction or repairing a denture—in his Boca Raton office and laces up his running shoes.

Art caught the runner's bug when he completed his first marathon in 1988. Over the next 14 years, he managed to run in two or three races a year. But things changed in 2001 when Art joined the 50 States and D.C. Marathon group. Southwest's breadth of service has given Art the freedom to begin achieving his goal of running a marathon in every state and the District of Columbia. In 2006, he completed his 200th marathon.

Art stepped up his flight activity again in 2004 when he met his girlfriend, Robyn, at the Disney World Marathon. Now every Thursday night he catches the last flight to Orlando, Florida, to pick up Robyn, whom he has designated as his Rapid Rewards Companion Pass holder. (Art receives the pass after flying 50 roundtrip flights in a 12-month period.) Then, almost as quick as a Southwest turnaround, the duo jet off to another Southwest city to run a marathon.

Art's travel plans don't always stay the course, but Southwest's flexible ticketing policies give him the freedom to change his itinerary. Last year, he decided to stay in the Big Apple for an extra day after the New York City Marathon. He used an Award ticket to get back home because he knew Southwest didn't have a "use-it-or-lose-it" policy. "I know I will be able to use my Ticketless funds on my next Southwest flight with no added fees," Art says.

The self-proclaimed "King of DING," Art relies heavily on his mysouthwest account on the airline website to keep his trips organized. As a Rapid Rewards A-lister, Art can now spend a few more productive minutes in the office before heading to the airport, knowing that Southwest has checked him in for his flight and that his place in line is secure. The on-time flights and humorous flight attendants are just a bonus.

Art, here's to you crossing the finish line and winning your next medal. And like a good training partner, Southwest Airlines will be there to help keep you running on time—whether you're logging miles in the air or on the ground. —Ana Schwager

Marathon Man
Southwest helps
Art to satisfy
a running yen.



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