

angled braces 90, 92 as shown herein. Also shown are illustrative forward brace members 94, 96 which serve to strengthen chassis 6.

A perspective view of a portion of chassis 6 is shown in FIG. 7. Specifically, shown is the upper deck portion 16 which includes side frame members 82, 84, and cross beams 86. Forward edge beam 88 is shown attached to angled braces 90, 92, which are themselves attached to side frame members 82, 84, respectively. A detail view of a forward corner of upper deck 16 is shown in FIG. 8. This view further illustrates the attachment of angled brace 90 forward edge beam 88, and side frame member 82. It can be appreciated from this view how beam 88 and side frame member 82 do not directly attach, thus eliminating the right-angle corner edge that would otherwise be formed by their attachment.

Top views of the upper deck of the travel trailer are shown in FIGS. 9a and b. Specifically, FIG. 9a is a prior art version of such an upper deck, whereas FIG. 9b depicts upper deck 16 as discussed with respect to FIGS. 6 through 8. Comparing the structure of 9a to the structure of 9b much is similar except for the forward corners and the forward edge beams. For example, the prior art upper deck 9a uses side frame members 96, 98 to attach to forward edge beam 100 to form corner right-angled edges 50, 56. (See, also, FIG. 4.) It is these corner edges that can limit the turning radius of vehicle 14 for the reasons previously discussed. By comparison, such corner edges have been removed from upper deck 16, as indicated by reference numerals 106A, 104 in FIG. 9b.

Perspective views of another illustrative embodiment of an upper deck frame 106 are shown in FIGS. 10 and 11. As shown in FIG. 10, many of the side frame members 82, 84, as well as cross beams 86, are the same or similar to that shown in the previous embodiments. Furthermore, forward edge beam 88 is also positioned in a comparable location as prior embodiments. This illustrative embodiment differs from the prior embodiments from the perspective that angled braces 90, 92 are attached to the ends of frame members and beams 82, 88 and 84, 88, respectively. For example, angled brace 90 is attached to the terminus 108 of side frame member 82. Similarly, angled brace 90 is attached to terminus 110 of forward edge beam 88. Angled brace 92 follows suit by attaching to side frame member 84 at terminus 112 and to forward edge beam 88 at terminus 114. In this embodiment cross beams 116 and 120 illustratively provide structural support to the forward corners.

The perspective view of upper deck frame 106 in FIG. 11 shows an illustrative embodiment of forward end cap 24 attached thereto. The angled braces 90, 92 accommodate the recessed corner edges 28, 30, as previously discussed. It is appreciated that the recessed corner edges may follow the contour of braces 90, 92, or they may, as shown herein, form a differently shaped recessed cavity. Further shown in this view are illustrative attachments 124, 126 which are configured to be used to attach end cap 24 with compartment 4. It is appreciated, however, that other means of attachment and/or sealing can be employed.

Perspective views of another illustrative embodiment of upper deck 130 of a trailer are shown in FIGS. 12 and 13. As shown in FIG. 12, upper deck 130 is similar in several respects to the prior embodiments, including side frame members 82, 84, as well as cross beams 86 extending there across. The distinction from the previous embodiments is that angled braces 90, 92 are removed completely which illustratively provides an even deeper recess within the forward corners of the deck 130. As shown, cross beams

116, 120 serve as the outer structure of deck 130 at the forward corners. Although cross beam 116 forms a right-angle attachment with side frame member 82, and cross beam 120 does the same with forward edge beam 88, frame member 82 does not attach to forward edge beam 88 to form a right-angled corner edge as disclosed in the prior art. Rather the right angle attachments disclosed in this illustrative embodiment are directed inwardly toward the interior of compartment 4. Similar to the previous embodiments, forward end cap 24 is shown attached to upper deck 130 in FIG. 13. It is, again, appreciated that the recessed corner edges can be of any useful depth and may be formed to conform to the shape of the cavities created by cross beams 116, 120. Conversely, as shown herein, recessed corner edges 28, 30 may also take a differing recess shape than the cavities formed by cross beams 116, 120.

Perspective views of another illustrative embodiment of upper deck 140 of a trailer are shown in FIGS. 14 and 15. As shown in FIG. 14, upper deck 140 is similar in several respects to the prior embodiments, including side frame members 82, 84, as well as cross beams 86 extending there across. The distinction from the previous embodiments is arcuate braces 142, 144. As shown, cross beams 116 and 120 still serve as structural supports adjacent the forward corners. Arcuate braces 142, 144, however, serve as the outer frame members at the forward corners, each attached to their respective frame members 82, 84, and both attached to forward edge beam 88. The forward corners are still recessed as indicated by reference numerals 146, 148 which depict conventional forward frame corners. (See, also, FIG. 9a.) Similar to the previous embodiments, forward end cap 24 is shown attached to upper deck 140 in FIG. 15. It is, again, appreciated that the recessed corner edges 28, 30 can be of any useful depth and may be configured to conform to the shape of the cavities created by arcuate braces 142, 144. Conversely, as shown herein, recessed corner edges 28, 30 may also take a differing recess shape than the cavities formed by cross beams 116, 120.

Although the present disclosure has been described with reference to particular means, materials and embodiments, from the foregoing description, one skilled in the art can easily ascertain the essential characteristics of the present disclosure and various changes and modifications may be made to adapt the various uses and characteristics without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A travel trailer chassis comprising:
 - a forward edge beam having a first end;
 - an outer side frame member substantially perpendicular to the forward edge beam, the outer side frame member having a forward end;
 - a first cross beam substantially perpendicular to the side frame member and connected to the forward end of the side frame member at a location rearward of the forward edge beam; and
 - a second cross beam substantially parallel to the outer side frame member and connected to the first cross beam and the first end of the forward edge beam.
2. The chassis according to claim 1, wherein the outer side frame member, first cross beam, second cross beam and forward edge beam form an inwardly directed recess.
3. The chassis according to claim 2, wherein the inwardly directed recess is a right angle.

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